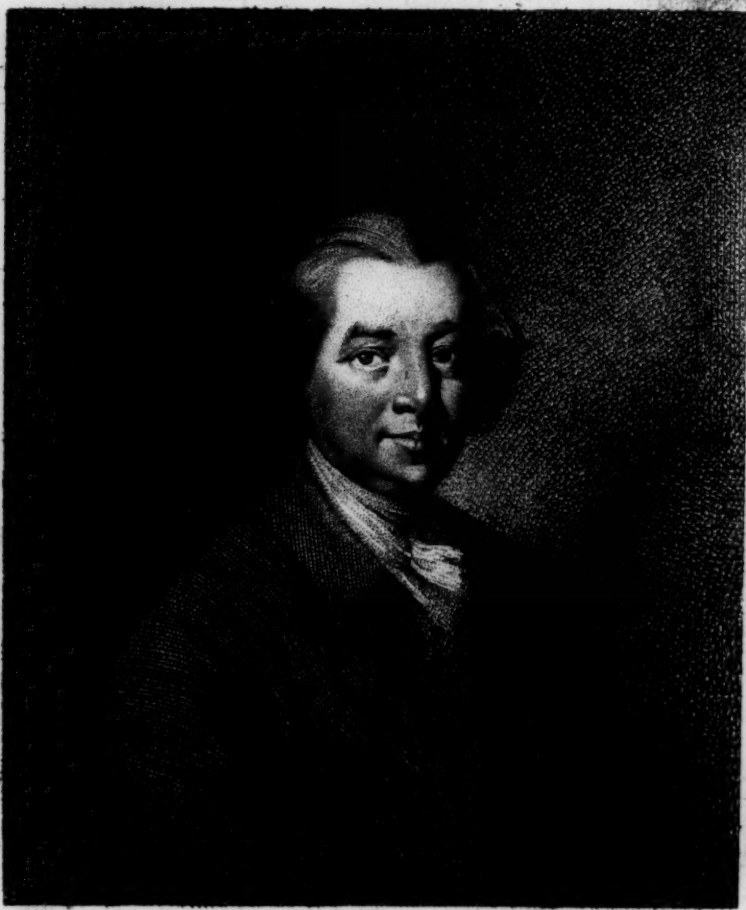


Clamp sculpt

WILL^M SHENSTON ESQ^R

From an Original Picture in the possession of W.G. Waldron



Clamp sculpt

WILL^M SHENSTON ESQ^R

From an Original Picture in the possession of W.G. Waldron

Thos. B. Harris 10921. 16. 60
1454 h 14

LETTERS

• WRITTEN BY

THE LATE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LADY LUXBOROUGH,

TO

WILLIAM SHENSTONE, Esq.



L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR J. DODSLEY, IN PALL-MALL.

M.DCC.LXXV.

married St John was half sister to the celebrated
Bolingbroke, and wife to Robert Knight Esq of
Barrels, afterwards created Baron Luxborough in
the kingdom of Ireland and Earl of Cathborough
Shenstone called Lady Luxborough a female
Bolingbroke, and found that his friend Somersville
had made an observation to the same effect.

For what reasons we know not, but after
having had a son and a daughter, she lived
separate from Lord Luxborough, and on her
death in 1756 his Lordship married again
immediately.

The Bullfinch in town

Long. written in winter 1745 3

To a near neighbour in a tempestuous night
1745.

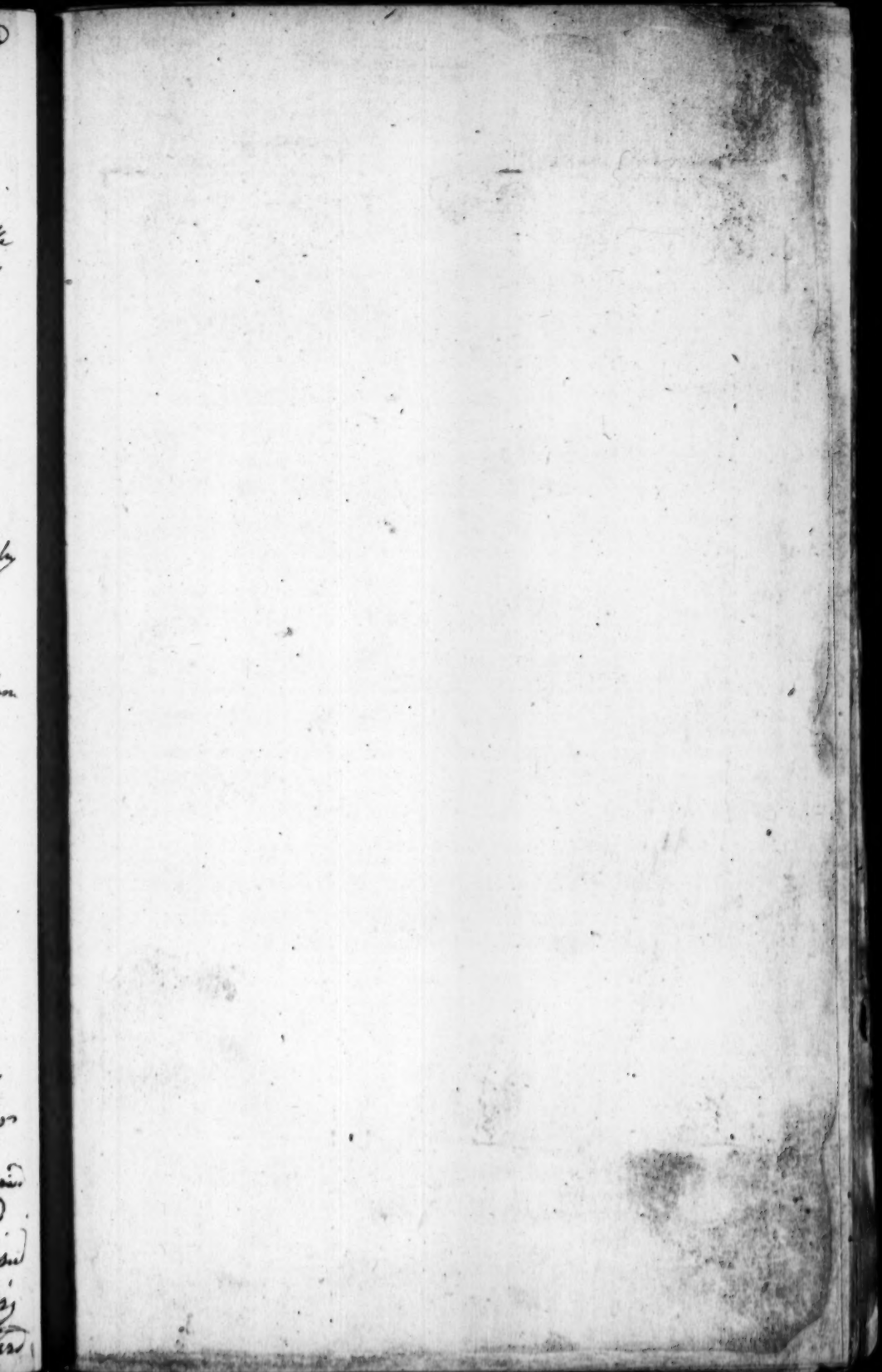
Lines written in a ferme owner near Birmingham
are all her Ladyship's production.

She appears to have experienced great
worldly troubles and afflictions, but closes
her life with christian piety.



Elizabeth

Lady Luxborough's son died without issue
she had two daughters, one married a french
Count, and the other — Wyndesole Esq
of Lockinge Co: Berks whose daughter married
~~John Pulteney Esq~~ ~~Baron Pulteney~~ ~~Esq~~ ~~of~~ ~~St. John~~ ~~was~~ ~~divorced~~
on account of the ~~hon~~ ~~ble~~ ~~pro~~ ~~ceed~~ ~~ings~~ ~~and~~ ~~marriage~~
him — Mr W. married secondly his daughter
maid, who after his death married Mr Pulteney.



Gustave was born at the Lezardis in 1744 and in 1765 he took possession of his paternal estates. He had his delight in rural pleasures, and his ambition of rural elegance was excited; he began from this time to point his prospects, to diversify his service, to entangle his walks, and to wind his waters; which he did with such judgement, and such fancy, as made his little domain the envy of the great, and the admiration of the skillful; a place to be visited by travellers and copied by designers.

His house was mean, and he did not improve it; his care was of his grounds, he might find his floors flooded through the broken roof, but could spare no money for its repair.

He spent his estate in adorning it, and his death was probably hastened by his anxieties. He was a lamp that spent its oil in blazing.

His mind was not very comprehensive, nor his curiosity active; he had no value for those parts of knowledge which he himself had not cultivated.

He is represented as a man of great tenderness and generosity, kind to all that were within his influence; but if once offended not easily appeased; inattentive to economy and careless of his expenses. In his person he was larger than the middle size with something clumsy in his form; very negligent of his dress, and remarkable for wearing his grey hair in a particular manner; for he held that fashion was to rule to be guided by.

Gustave

She
with
young
100000
kupa

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following LETTERS are undoubtedly genuine; and are now first published from the Originals, by Mr. JOHN HODGETTS, of Hagley, in Worcestershire, Executor to the late WILLIAM SHENSTONE, Esquire. The Writer of them was so well known, that to say any thing concerning her on this occasion, would be as superfluous as it would be to attempt to give a character of the Letters. They must speak for themselves. Yet it may not be improper to inform the Reader, that in the original Manuscript Volume of these

Letters, perfectly and
Mr W. educated his Daugh^r very plain a very sensible woman
she proved though very plain with a well cultivated mind. Mr Bastard was
young enough to be her son. his father offered him
100000^l if not to marry her - but he declined he should
prefer her with 500^l to any other woman

Letters, which had been bound together by Mr. Shenstone, in the first leaf he had written with his own hand, as follows :

“ Letters from the Right Honourable Lady Luxborough ;
 “ written with abundant Ease, Politeness, and Vivacity ; in which
 “ she was scarce equalled by any woman of her time. They commenced in the year 1739, and
 “ were continued to the year of her death (1756), with some few
 “ intermissions.



“ WILL. SHENSTONE.”

Mr. Walton told me from the authority of Gen. Knight natural son of Lord Luxborough that he and his Lady parted on account of Shenstone, to whom his Ladyship was supposed to be too partial, at least she was so in her Lord's eyes. I think it does not appear in these letters she might be too independant in her way of thinking, and with her sagacious talents, possibly

LADY

LADY LUXBOROUGH'S
LETTERS.

LETTER I.

SIR,

Barrells, November 27th, 1739.

WITHOUT the assistance of your pen,
it will be impossible for me to return
Mr. Shenstone sufficient thanks for the honour
he does me, and my humble habitation; and for
the agreeable entertainment his verses afford
me: to you, Sir, I owe the pleasure of hav-
ing enjoyed that gentleman's conversation a
few moments; to you I owe the advantage
of being represented to him in the most flat-
tering light; and to you I desire to owe the
favour of speaking my gratitude for his gen-
teel compliment, and my admiration of all he

B writes;
and ornamenting his place, she might be
of that strict propriety so necessary to
married woman. Lord Luxborough
is unquestionably a man devoid of morals
removed from fair to fair; and was perhaps
of an excuse to quit his wife Eliza.

2 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

writes : his offended Muse will I fear repent her ready aid, if he bestows such fine thoughts and flowing lines on such trifling and unworthy subjects, as in his copy of verses inscribed to a person who has no other pretence to merit, or to taste, but that of distinguishing his. As you, Sir, have the art to describe the most simple things with the nicest elegance (as appears by your Pastoral) I must once more intreat you to make known to your friend, the sincerity of my heart in the approbation it gives to his works ; to which it pays just praise, though my words could no more express it (without doing wrong to my sentiments) than they could utter the real esteem, and friendly regard, with which I am, Sir,

Your obliged humble servant,

H. KNIGHT.

To the Revd. Mr. Jago, jun.
at Henley.

L E T T E R . II.

S I R,

Barrells, April 27, 1741.

MR. John Reynalds has this moment brought me your poem, for which I would not defer returning thanks ; as I think myself

LETTERS.

3

myself greatly obliged to you for sending me what has already given me much pleasure, and will do so as often as I read it: that mark of your remembrance, and the honour you do me in counting my approbation as any thing, gives a real satisfaction to, Sir,

Your obliged humble servant,

H. KNIGHT.

To William Shenstone, Esq;
at Mr. Wintle's, Perfumer,
near Temple-Bar, London.

LETTER III.

SIR,

Barrells, May 29th, 1742.

NOTHING but an uncommon hurry of business and company, ever since the moment I received your poem, could have prevented my returning thanks for the favour you do me in thinking me worthy to judge of the beauties of it: it was with pleasure I read it, and I admired it on more accounts than merely the novelty of the subject.

The piping Faunus having his pipe in his hands when he came to me, I suppose Rackstraw had followed your advice (which was right) before he finished the figure; which I

B 2

think

4 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

think a genteel one, but too small to set out of doors.

If you do me justice, you will believe that I am glad of every opportunity of assuring you, that I am, Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

H. KNIGHT.

L E T T E R IV.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, July 28th, 1747.

I AM glad of an opportunity to let you know, that if it should happen to be convenient to you, (as you was so kind to give Lady Luxborough an invitation to your Hermitage) that her Ladyship will do herself the pleasure to take a prospect of the Leafowes before the leaf falls; and will take that opportunity on Tuesday next, August the 4th, to breakfast with you, and dine with you; and return at night with the two scribes, who all join in compliments.

CROSSE OUTING, his mark T.

J. REYNALDS.

P. S. My secretaries being somewhat idle after dinner, have wrote in such an odd manner, that
I think

L E T T E R S. 5

I think myself obliged to subscribe to the truth of what they say:—and at the same time I assure you I am, Sir,

With great esteem,

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R V.

SIR, Barrells, August 11th, 1747.

IF my doing barely justice, in commending the beauty of your situation, and the elegance of your taste, can make you vain, you must not admit of any company, if you will become a rigid hermit; nor should I have ventured a visit to the Leasowes, where the more one sees, the more one admires, and that admiration leads towards envy, which, as an hermitess, I ought to shun.

I return thanks, not only for the agreeable reception you gave me, but also for your kind enquiry now. I got home safe, but had one downfall, a little beyond Birmingham, which however did no hurt to Mr. Outing nor me; nor was it any dishonour to my postillion, as the night was very dark, and the moon down, or at least clouded over: but we met with very

B 3 unhof-

6 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

unhospitable treatment at Shirley-street, where they refused to receive us at the Saracen's Head, though it was but eleven o'clock, and we saw a good fire in the kitchen; and a maid, who was sitting by it, took her candle and went to bed, whilst we were at the door intreating, knocking, and at last threatening, but all in vain: the stars took pity of us, and appeared just as our hostess disappeared, and guided us in a friendly manner to Barrells, where we arrived at past one o'clock, and the next day regaled ourselves with the best pine-apple I ever eat; since which time, I have talked of nothing but the beauty of Virgil's grove, and the meanness of my own; which used to give me some pleasure, but is so much lessened in my esteem, by comparing it with yours, that I could almost wish I had not seen the latter. The only amends you can make me for the pleasure you have deprived me of, is to give me your company soon at Barrells; which will always be acceptable to, Sir,

Your obliged humble servant,

HL LUXBOROUGH.

I beg my best compliments to Miss Dolman, and Mr. Outing desires his to you.

LETTER

After the death of Shenston's grandmother his affairs devolved to the care of the Rev^d Mr. Dolman of Brome in Staffordshire, whose attention he always mentioned with gratitude.

LETTERS.

7

LETTER VI.

SIR,

Barrells, February 2d, 1747-8.

MR. Outing, who left this place on Saturday last, desired the inclosed might be conveyed to you; and I take the same opportunity of conveying my excuses for the incivility you must think me guilty of, in not rising the day you left Barrells, to wish you a good journey, and to thank you for the favour of your company. The not doing so, carried an appearance even of ingratitude, as your visit had given me so much pleasure; nor can your own good nature have been my advocate farther, than by lowering my crime, in calling it laziness; to which I would plead guilty, but that, in fact, my intention was to get up when the servant came in to light my fire, but was prevented, by her telling me you was in bed, and, she believed, was not to go away that day: this good news indulged me; and I, with the tranquillity satisfaction gives, took another nap; but waking, found it only an agreeable dream; for you was gone. Mr. Outing, the instant I came down stairs, presented me with a song, which he said he found upon your table; and I read it eagerly,

B 4

soon

soon finding it to be your stile. It is not necessary to add, that I thought it extremely pretty, and very poetical; but if it had been in prose, I should have been tempted to ask who was that ASTERIA that could make her *bearts* cheerful to you in the rigid season, when I, who had so lately been favoured with your company, was too sensible 'twas not in my power to make mine so, though nobody could wish it more; but want of fun and want of genius is ill supplied by a coal-fire, which was all I had to give; and my ill health unluckily at that time added to my stupidity, when I most wished for spirits to entertain my agreeable company: and now that I have entirely recovered my health, I have lost my company. Such are the chequered chances of this life! so that my *bermitefs* and I have entire possession of my little wood, without either fear or hope of being interrupted in our contemplations, I contentedly subscribe to what she has wrote upon her old tree;

“ The world forgetting, by the world forgot:”

but would not include in that world the friends I esteem, and whose conversation I admire: nor can ever any of the disagreeable events in LIFE make me wish it to become unsociable whilst it lasts; but cities (no more than forests) do not afford

1
On fair Astoria's blissful plains
Where we blossom in sunny rains
How pleas'd we pass the winter day;
And charm the dull eye's dusk away!

2
No hint from the leafless bough
Pours forth his note melodious now;
But all admire Astoria's tongue,
Nor wish the linnet's vernal song.

3
No flower admit their transient days
Yet sure Astoria's wit displays
More various turns, more flowing lines
And with perennial beauty shines

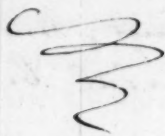
4
Tho' ruffled groves, and fetter'd streams
But ill bespeak a poet's dreams;
Astoria's presence wakes the lyre;
And well supplies poetick fire.

5
The fields have lost their lovely dye.
No cheerful azure decks the sky;
Yet still we bless the lowering day;
Astoria smiles, and all is gay.

6
Hence let the muse no more presume
To blame the Winter dreary gloom;
Accuse his loitering hours no more;
And ah! their envious haste deplore!

7
Not soon, from wit and friendships leign
The social hearth, the sprightly vein
I go — to meet the coming year,
Or, savage plains, and deserts dear!

S
I go, to seek on pleasures flown
Nor find the spring my loss atone!
But 'mid the flowery sweets of May
With pride recall this Winter day —



afford society; it is the *conversation* of a chosen few that smoothes the rugged road of life: such as *yours* strews it with *flowers*; but as *they* soon fade, so did *you* vanish, and all the company that surrounded my *heart*; which, though abandoned, will afford me such conversation as the pen can supply, whilst I have the pleasure of reading your thoughts; which pleasure I hope you will not deny me, but rather send me any thing they may happen to add to the collection I have; than which nothing can be more esteemed by, Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH,

P. S. If I mistake not, I heard you say, you wanted a receipt to make sealing wax; I transcribe one that was given me, but fear you cannot read that, nor this letter, as I write in haste. —Lady Hertford writes me word, she is charmed with your retreat: as she has only had the description of it from me, judge what she'd be if she saw it, at least if Mr. Thompson described it to her.

LETTER

L E T T E R VII.

SIR,

Barrells, March 22d, 1747-8.

THE apprehension that the farmer who carried Inigo Jones's designs; and a letter in the book from me to you, may have delivered them to a wrong person at Birmingham, is the occasion of my troubling you with this, to let you know that I did not fail to send it the very first market day after I received the favour of yours; and he says he delivered it to a man at the post-house, but the post-mistress (who, they tell me, is not the mildest nor most obliging dame) assured Parson Holyoak, she received no such thing; and upon his asking her, if she happened to have any letter since, directed for me, she said, No! neither did she know me, or would trouble herself about it. Which I mention, that in case you write, you will be pleased to send your's to Master Franky Holyoak, at Mr. Bolton's, wholesale Toymaker, upon Show-Hill, in Birmingham. This (if you did not receive the book) will serve, I hope, to convince you, Sir, that I did my part, being incapable of neglecting to do what my friends desire.

I ac-

LETTERS. 11

I acquainted you in my last that I was lame,
but I am now much better, and always

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER VIII.

S I R,

Barrells, Easter Sunday, 1748.

IT is rather to oblige the ambulatory old
gentlewoman who delivers you your letters
with so much alacrity, than it is to oblige her
best master, that I write again so soon; for I am
too sensible *my* letters will but ill repay the plea-
sure I receive from *his*; so that I ought to make
a longer pause, and not interrupt my friends in
better company, better thoughts, and better diversions,
as Swift expresses it. If that consideration was
just, which made him *pause a few weeks* betwixt
his letters, I ought to pause years, or rather
never write at all; that would be more polite;
but it would make me fancy myself ungrateful;
and consequently make me hate myself. It is
therefore *self-love* which urges me to take this
early opportunity of returning thanks for your
last

last letter, wrote on Lady-Day. However depressed your *spirits* might be when you wrote it, it revived mine; for it is not in the power even of the north-east wind to depress your *genius*; and to *that* we owe thoughts which must please, however negligently they may be dressed: — the stiffen-bodied gown would not add charms, I believe, to a beautiful woman, no more than Voiture's laboured turns of expression add to his style: and friendship undoubtedly shews itself in the best light, when least adorned by art. Therefore I hope you will never deprive me of the pleasure your letters give me, nor defer it, because your spirits may not just then allow you to send them out in their best apparel; it is sufficient you *can* do so; and they'll always be as welcome to me in their common garb, which is yet richer than you seem to imagine. I follow the rule I give, and write what comes uppermost; but it is in *me* a fault, as I am not privileged to do so by any of the gifts of nature, except artless sincerity be one.

I read your four sonnets with much pleasure; and am obliged to you for the trouble of transcribing them: they are truly poetical, yet have an ease as well as delicacy in the turn of thought and expression, which must, I believe, be agreeable to all, whether good judges by their
skill

skill and learning, or only judges of good sense and nature. If Doddsley gives a second edition of his well-chosen collection, I hope you will not let your School-mistress be unaccompanied by all her parent's offspring. Now that the boisterous baneful month of March is over, and that the sun resumes his power, I hope, and shall expect to see the productions of your imagination, as much as I shall expect to see those of my parterre, my shrubbery, or grove; and if joined to that satisfaction I have your company here, I shall give double praises to the returning spring. Mr. Whistler, or any friend of yours, will be perfectly welcome; but remember, that though I shall be a great gainer by *his* conversation, I shall also be a loser by his hearing *mine*, and his seeing this poor hermitage; of both which he may perchance have formed an advantageous idea, by your partial account of them; and *that* idea will instantly be destroyed, unless you have been as silent as Mr. Outing was about the Leafowes, before I had seen it: his caution was well judged, but wrong placed. But to shew you that I do not prefer fame (especially unmerited fame) to pleasure and improvement, I desire you to bring him, though at the expence of his being undeceived. I have read over his Shuttlecock several times, and each
time

time with redoubled pleasure. 'Tis certainly a beautiful poem: I own myself a very indifferent judge, but it pleases me. It is an uncommon performance, and what many older and more famed poets would be proud of, whatever *juvenile* faults there may be in it; but, I think, the author's youth may rather be remarked by the great spirit and vivacity of his thoughts, than by any errors in his judgment; but if any such there be, you are his friend, and will have a very easy task in your criticism, if you should object to a few words, in order to let it appear perfect to the world, if our present world is elegant enough to be worthy of it. Its name, and part of its character, had reached my ears before I saw it, but not from you. I think his families exceeding apt, and his digressions just and lively: if so slight a subject, at so early an age, could be worked up so well, he certainly is capable of raising the intrinsic value of any more weighty, or more lofty subject he undertakes.

Your remark upon Fitzosborne's Letters is most just; for letters that are, or even seem to be, wrote *for the press*, never please like others: yet they are, I think, wrote in good language, and shew, I believe, polite learning and judgment; and the style would be unexceptionable, I fancy, in *Essays*; but familiar letters require a

more familiar address. I find several more are promised, if these succeed. I wish some laborious pen may not be writing in the name of that author, and overwhelm us with his *supposed* letters; these, however, are genuine, as I suppose, though I never heard of that gentleman; and am obliged to you for your explanation of the character of Mezentius; that, in particular, might prevent the real names being published: they would have made the book infinitely more interesting; but if that could not be, I don't know whether feigned but common modern names, might not have pleased better, as they would have seemed real.

You are welcome to Inigo Jones's designs, as long as they can be of service to you; and in return, I beg the favour of you to send me the height and thickness of your wall that has arches sunk in it, and the depth, breadth, and height of those arches; and let me know whether they are plaistered on the inside, and if any ornament is on the top, or only a coping: it is to build in summer a bit of wall (as you advised) to screen me from the cottage that is contiguous to my garden, in lieu of the garden-seat which you and we all thought did not answer the hopes I had of it. If I do build that seat, it shall be to terminate some walk or view.

The

The chimney in my study was not exactly in the middle of the room ; which has occasioned my moving it twelve inches, and consequently moving Pope's bust to be in the center. The lines wrote over it are put up again, (which, you know, are out of Virgil) but the stucco at the back of it must be new done, and the flat pieces of wainscot that make the margins of it, were never ornamented. Perhaps you would invent some more elegant ornament, if you would bestow a thought upon it ; or the stucco might be just as before, only some foliage or other carving, to drop down the sides. Miss Merediths write word, that the present fashion at London, is all lead carving, which ladies do themselves, by cutting India, or other thin lead with scissors, and shaping it into flowers, knots, &c. and fixing it to a wire, which is afterwards nailed on in the form designed ; and the carving is either gilt, or else painted the colour of the stucco or wainscot, according as suits the place.

I send this to the Birmingham post-office, (as you ordered) by a chance person. If you write an answer soon, pray direct it to Mr. Ironmonger, Master of the Castle-Inn, to be forwarded to me, (for Franky Holyoak is at home) and there is no post nor certain conveyance

LETTERS.

17

ance from Birmingham to Henley where you will direct it to be left for me.

SIR,

I have left myself no room, and the person who carries this, leaves me no time, but just to assure you in the cover of my letter, that I am, (though not ceremoniously, yet very sincerely)

Sir,

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S. I have writ a line to Mr. Ironmonger, to desire he'll send your letter, if any comes, to the Henley Post-house for me, by some safe conveyance.

LETTER IX.

SIR,

Barrells, April 28th, 1748.

TWO of your letters lie before me; of which I am not a little proud: I am also well pleased with myself for having refrained from troubling you with an answer to the first,

C

till

till I had received the second; which was not till last night. You will allow this to be some merit; at least, you would allow it, if you knew how great is my propensity to write to you; it being always with the selfish view of procuring in return some composition of yours. My self-denial this time has been great, but it is well rewarded by the favour of your last letter, and Mr. Whistler's Flower-Piece; the moral of which is perfectly just, and the thought very genteel and elegant. In this, as well as in his other Poem which you sent me, I think one may observe a great delicacy of imagination: the words altered with a pencil seem to be much for the better, especially the first line. As for his sentiment on enjoying things by reflection, I am not yet a convert to it, but am rather of your mind, that "an absent pleasure is equivalent to a present pain." For instance, if I was fond of London and its amusements, or had a taste for public places, I feel that it would give me pain to see St. James's, Vauxhall, Ranelagh, &c. &c. represented in so lively a manner as I see them through an optical glass which I have lately purchased, now that I am absent from them: but as I never was fond of a crowd, I enjoy those places as much as I desire in this reflected way, without wishing myself at them; and

Flowers by Anthony Whistler Esq^r

— Ego apes matinee

More modique

Eprata carjuncts thy ma

Hor

1

Let sage with superfluous pains
The learned page devour;
While Florio better knowledge drains
From each instructive flower

2

His favourite rose his fear alarms
All opening to the sun;
Like vain coquette who spread thin charms
And shine to be undone

3

She trips gaudy in its dress,
And made for many a but show;
In every sense may well express
The glittering empty bow!

4

The snowdrop first but puffs to light,
And fearful shews its head;
Thus modest merit shines most bright,
By self distrust misled —

5

The Qu'la which thro' labour rose,
Yet shines complete by art,
The force of education shews;
How much it can impart.

6

He marks the Sensitive's nice fit;
 Nor fears he to proclaim,
 If each man's darling view was hit,
 That he would act the same.

7

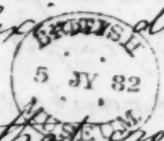
Beneath such common hedges, he views
 The violet with care;
 Hinting we should not worth, upuse,
 Altho' we find it there.

8

The Tuberose that lofty Springs,
 Nor can support its height,
 Well represents impetuous kings;
 Grown impotent by night.

9

Ingratant tho' pale the liby blows;
 To reach the female breast,
 How virtue can its sweets disclose
 In all complexions drest



10.

To every bloom that crowns the year,
 Nature some charm decrees;
 Learn hence ye nymphs her face to use
 Ye cannot fail to please

3

and I can look on the buildings and gardens of Stowe in the same manner, and with pleasure, because I never was there. But were you to present me with the Views of the Leasowes, I own I should not put them into my show-box without pain, nor see them well represented without regret; as it would remind me of the agreeable day I spent there, and my lost pleasure.

Your friend Mr. Graves's Lamentation is very pretty and pathetic, and seems to come from the heart: he must, I think, be very sincerely and very strongly in love; and yet I cannot but think *that* very inconsistent with his parting voluntarily from his Lucy, and with his sending her to London, without any jealousy: and I confess I also think it inconsistent that a man, who may be supposed to despise the opinion of the world, (since he marries so much below himself, and what the world would recommend) should part from *her* he so dearly loves, only to give her an education proper to please that world which he seems to despise; for it is plain, she pleases *him* without that education. How does he know, but that by losing her rural innocent air, however she may improve in her dancing-master's opinion, she may lessen in *his*, and her acquired charms may not

C 2

please

Lucy was the daughter of a gentleman/farmer with whom Mr Graves boarded when he had a way near Oxford - she died 1777 æt 49.

please him as her native charms did the town? Perhaps I judge wrong, and yet I think it seems to be a natural way of judging. However, as he is your friend, I wish him happy, and hope she will not have the fate you threaten your rose-bud, and I threaten my bull-finch with; which last (since I have happened to mention it) I must tell you, is a little foolish *impromptu* I wrote in a letter to our friend Outing, whose answer was, that notwithstanding the moral of my song, he went the night he received it to the Oratorio of Judas Maccabæus, where he was highly entertained; and he speaks with such ecstasy of the music, as I confess I cannot conceive any one can feel who understands no more of music than myself; which I take to be his case. But I suppose he sets his judgment true to that of the multitude; for if his ear is not nice enough to distinguish the harmony, it serves to hear what the multitude say of it. He *would* be offended, if he should know that I think his singing much upon a par with my poetry; and you *ought* to be offended that I send you such foolish lines: but he might have happened to mention them to you, and as they are not worth the trouble of asking for, I prevent you, by sending them, and hope you will throw them in the fire when you have

have read them: for they are not worth shewing to any, but one who, like you, is capable of excusing all faults in a friend, and who will not account it one in me, that I am no *Poetess*; which reproachful name I would avoid, even if I were capable of acquiring it; for which reason I hope you will throw the Epistle the Bos-tangy has sent you into the flames, with the Song, and forget I ever wrote in *verse* my real opinion in prose of the Leafowes' beauties.

I am impatient for your Essay, especially as you tell me there is in it a resemblance of yourself. I hope you will give me rules for œconomy; nobody wants them more: but I suspect you will not give me such as I might learn between Temple-Bar and the Stones End. In short, I have no great opinion of your rudiments in this science, though perhaps you may know the theory better than the practice of it: and you may be a good speculative œconomist for what I know; but I never met with a practical one in a soul where generosity and benevolence had a place, or to which a bright genius was joined.

I lament with you the loss of Lady Lyttelton, though I had not the honour of being personally acquainted with her; but her character was known, and all society must mourn so good a

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member

Lucy, daughter of Hugh Fortescue Esq. she died 19 Jan 1746 and was buried at Ousley, but an elegant monument was erected to her in Hayley Church

member of it, and all the poor so good a benefactors.

Your advice about my chimney pleased me greatly; but forced œconomy forbids my following it: besides that good carving is too fine for my humble roof. The room, consider, is only hung with sixpenny paper, and is so low that I have but five inches between Pope's Head and the Motto over it: so that I can neither have a compartment for that, nor an architrave, as is at Houghton. The contrast between that place and Barrells is so great, that it is ludicrous to name them together: and yet I allow with you, that the chimney in the dining-room there, might give one a hint for my little one; but I have not height enough for it. Upon the whole, as your thought was too good to reject, I have employed my friend Williams (in New-street, Birmingham) to paint the ornaments you would have had carved, in stone-colours, pretty strongly shaded to appear to rise like carving; and I sent him one of the two sketches you sent me, that he might the better comprehend what ornaments he was to introduce. When my brother Bolingbroke built Dawley, which he chose to call a Farm, he had his hall painted in stone-colours, with all the implements of husbandry placed in the manner
one

one fees or might see arms and trophies in some General's hall; and it had an effect that pleased every body. I believe Pope mentions it in one of his letters to Swift.—Mr. Williams is going to paint two ceilings for Mr. Anson (elder brother to my Lord Anson) in Staffordshire; one of them is for the Chinese room: I believe he has sketched them out at Birmingham, but is to go to paint them as soon as the Parliament rises.—Mr. Outing writes that he has sent you a bust of Pope done to look like marble, and that Rackstrow is doing four in that manner for my brother Sir John.—I should like to see your standish.

Nothing can be more just than the criticism upon the Play in the Magazine.—If you read French, I could send you a play just acted at Paris; Lady Bolingbroke sent it me: the chief character is a man who makes it his sole business and his sole pleasure to make mischief, even where he can get nothing by it: it is very well drawn, and I wish one did not see so many people like it.

If ever I have the pleasure of seeing your compositions all together, I could wish to have them ornamented in the manner of Pine's Horace, by yourself; where you would shew your taste in a double capacity, as poet and painter.

But you will say I am too unreasonable, and so I am; for I beg of you to continue to send me gold for glass, which I think is our usual traffick, and consequently you are too generous to, Sir,

Your faithful and obliged servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R X.

SIR,

Barrells, May 28th, 1748.

THIS is the first opportunity I have had of sending you the French Comedy you desire, and of answering your query about your standish. My advice is not worth asking in such matters; but since you do me the favour to ask it, it is this:

You have forty ounces of old plate, which, at five shillings and sixpence per ounce, amounts to eleven pounds. You have an inclination to indulge your fancy without much expence: you may then make your standish to weigh only thirty ounces, which, at eight shillings, (which is, I find, the price demanded) will come to
twelve

twelve pounds : so that it will cost your pocket but twenty shillings, and I am persuaded will weigh enough for a standish, if the dimensions you intended to make it of are so large that thirty ounces will make the silver too thin. I suppose there will be no hurt in making it less in size, as the taste will be equally shewn; and I imagine the use will be much the same : but of this I cannot judge, because I never saw your draught.

The inclosed I received from Lady Hertford, to whom I had sent your Ballad of Queen Elizabeth, knowing it would suit her taste, and believing you would pardon me, as I sent it upon the footing of a trifle ; but I will not send more of your compositions without your permission : I therefore beg you will send me back her letter by the very first opportunity, (as I wait for *that* to answer it) and say which of the things I have of yours you permit me or forbid me to send ; for I shall religiously observe your directions about that, as well as about *Dawson's Ditty*, which I shall like to see in print, and to keep silence. I have heard *that* sung which he made just before his execution, and which was not made for him. Your *Kid* moves compassion ; but it is comfort to think (as you observe) how many evils it would have done, if it had lived to
be

be old ; and many it also might have received. Do not imagine what you write can be *middling* ; if ever you should cease to write *well*, you will certainly write *ill* ; for I am sure you never *com-promised* with Apollo, whatever your friend Greaves may do with the *world*.

The Duke of Newcastle *Pantin* charms me, and I don't doubt but it made the peace. I am in doubt, when I hear of this polite fashion, whether it is a mark that the world is returned to its infancy, (as old people grow childish) or whether it be not some coquettish invention, that Mr. *Pantin* may say in dumb show what the Lady who wears him cannot say for herself. If this supposition should be thought severe upon their reputations, at least it saves them from the imputation of folly and childishness.

Had Shakespeare been used to gather rents, he would not have said

“ For who so firm, that cannot be seduc'd ? ”

since your half day in endeavouring to *seduce* your tenant into paying you for half a year was *ineffectual*, and as my labours that way are as vain. My success in *receiving* money is very similar to yours ; and if what you say about the *butter-dish* and the *snice* is true as to you, it is no less so as to me. The parallel between us may
be

be carried yet farther ; for I am as backward as you at *wringing from the hard hands of peasants their vile trash* ; nor could I ever be forced, even by experience, into a proper *veneration for six-pence*, or have the foresight to nurse Fortune ; but however, to *eat one's cake* when one is *abungered*, is most sweet.—The late King George was fond of peaches stewed in brandy in a particular manner, which he had tasted at my father's ; and ever after, till his death, my mamma furnished him with a sufficient quantity to last the year round (*he eating two every night*). This little present he took kindly : but one season proved fatal to fruit-trees, and she could present his Majesty but with half the usual quantity, desiring him to use œconomy, for they would barely serve him the year at *one* each night. Being thus forced by necessity to retrench, he said he would then eat *two* every other night ; and valued himself upon having mortified himself less, than if he had yielded to their regulation of one each night ; which, I suppose, may be called a compromise between œconomy and epicurism ; but I leave it to your decision.

As little as I love money, and as well as I love Lady Hertford and admire her judgment, I grudge six shillings for Hervey's Meditations, because you say they are *sometimes affected*, and
that

that he admires Dr. *Young*, whom I have not wit enough to admire (I hope Lady Hertford don't hear me): but I want to see the frontispieces, because Dr. Wall is so ingenious a man, that I am persuaded he gives nothing to the public but what is worthy of persons of taste.

I am glad you can read French; not that it is my favourite language by any means, but I think there are so many things of delicacy wrote in it, that it must give you pleasure; and their commentators are worthy to be consulted, and, if not *approved*, at least to be *compared* with ours. As to the pronunciation, the *ear* must teach it, *not* the *eye*. When you favour me with a visit, I will be the *afs in the Toga*, if you please, as far as pronunciation goes. I hope for that pleasure this summer, and am, with sincere esteem, Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Pray do not fail to send Lady Hertford's letter soon.—I write in a hurry at midnight, not knowing before, that I could send to-morrow. My hand-writing will prove my veracity.

LETTER

LETTER XI.

SIR,

Barrells, Monday, 27th June, 1748.

WHILST you was prevented from reading the play by your Brother's severe illness, I was prevented answering yours of the first instant, by my own illness, of which I have not been many days recovered. The medicines the apothecary thought proper to give me, (though they did me good) lowered my spirits, and made me incapable of attending to any agreeable amusement; so that Lady Hertford's letter remains *unanswered*, and the books that you and she recommend, *unread*: I cannot give you a stronger proof that my disorder was real. It has now left me in a great measure, and I will set about what I was obliged to neglect, but will leave Mr. Hervey's Meditations for the last; not (as the French say) *pour faire bonne bouche*, but, on the contrary, because I am not so eager to read them as the poems; and my curiosity as to Dr. Wall's Frontispieces is fully satisfied by your account of them. I shall be glad *now* to see the poem upon Sickness, which you offer to lend me. A few days ago the sub-

ject might have depressed my lowered spirits,
 and have made nervous cordials of no effect.
 My hand still trembles a little, as perhaps you
 will perceive, which will make me shorten this
 letter; and Parson Hall's conversation whilst I
 write, is another motive to my shortening it; so
 I hasten, Sir, to tell you that I am very happy
 in the thought of seeing you soon at Barrells,
 and much obliged to Miss Dolman for her in-
 tended visit. Every friend of yours is welcome
 here; therefore she would be so, had I never
 seen her: but having had the pleasure of enjoy-
 ing her company at your house, I should have
 a very bad taste not to be desirous of enjoying
 more of it. Here I naturally should say, the
 sooner you come the better; but I will tell you
 sincerely, that I am at present ashamed of my
 slovenly garden, which cannot be weeded, nor
 in the least spruced up, till my hay is all in;
 which employs all my servants, and all the
 hands I can get this busy time. Mr. Outing
 writes me word, that in a fortnight he shall be
 at Somerviles-Aston, and that a few days after
 he will come to Barrells; by which time I
 reckon my hay-making will be at an end, and
 my garden put into somewhat better order: and
 as I know he will be greatly pleased to meet you
 here, I hope about that time to see you, and
 that

that you will not make so short a stay here as you mention.

Your pen gives me a very clear idea of Mr. Lyttelton's castle, and I believe I know the spot on which it is situated; but the proposal you make of my seeing it in so agreeable a manner as by going to Mr. Dolman's, makes me unwilling to content myself with viewing it only in your letter.

I shall be ready to contribute to any encouragement you shall think fit to give to Mr. Smith's Designs; and am glad Virgil's Grove will have a place among them.

I return thanks for your compliment about my Son, who is as *dear* to me as he is *dutiful*, and, I flatter myself, *deserving*: he is returned from Italy to Spa, and is going to pay his duty to the King at Hanover. My Daughter is lately married.—I hope your Brother is perfectly recovered, and that you will pardon this stupid letter, which I am sure is not fraught with the least spirit; but in its lowly way is very sincere, particularly when it assures you of the perfect esteem, with which I am,

Sir,

Your much obliged

and very humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Your letter, though dated the 16th, did not reach me till last night.

At last I am in the fashion, and have got a Pantin. Miss Patty Meredith writes me word, that she sends me a Pantin of the newest sort, and that the woman who sold it assured her it was just arrived in England, and is reckoned to make as genteel a curtsy as any Monsieur Pantin in Europe. She adds, that though this invention must be owned to be a great improvement to the diversion of the town, there is another of later date that is worthy of admiration; for there is a party of gentlemen and ladies of fashion who entertain the company at Vauxhall with the most charming harmony: the ladies crow like cocks, and if any gentlemen of the party are within hearing, they answer them by braying like an ass: That one Mrs. Woolaston has arrived to the greatest perfection, and has the honour of being called the head of the party for her excellence in this art.

LETTER

LETTER XII.

SIR, Barrells, Wednesday, July 20th, 1748.

AS my last letter might possibly prevent my having the pleasure of your company so soon as you intended to give it me, I take the first opportunity of acquainting you, that the obstacles are removed; for my hay-making is over, and my health is better. As to Mr. Outing's meeting you, indeed I cannot absolutely answer; but I know he left London last Monday was sevennight, with his cousin Walshe, and they were to come to Oxford in the stage-coach, stay there a day, and proceed to Jacky Reynalds's on horseback; from whence I understood Mr. Walshe would go to drink Cheltenham waters, and Mr. Outing would, in a very short time after his arrival in Gloucestershire, make me a visit at Barrells; and was much concerned he could not meet you and Miss Dolman here; for I suppose he comprehended you were coming immediately, and his letter was writ the 5th instant. I expect every day to hear from him, and I imagine he will be here next week; but whether he is or

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no,

no, I shall hope to see you, Sir, with Miss Dolman, her brother, or any friend you choose to bring. If you write to me on Saturday, and direct it to be left with Mr. Williams, Painter, in New-street, Birmingham, I have desired him to forward it; and as his brothers live in Henley, he has more frequent opportunities of sending thither than Mr. Ironmonger. He has finished my chimney-piece; which he hopes will not be disapproved by you, Sir, to whom I owe the idea of it.

I am ashamed to own that I have not yet answered Lady Hertford's letter, nor read the books she recommended: in short, I might as well have been a mole and lived under ground, or a dormouse and slept incessantly, as the insignificant animal I have been for some time. Two or three days indeed I was kept awake by a visit from Mr. Meredith, who entertained me with the many gay entertainments he had been a partaker of at London last Spring; but when he was gone, I was left alone with Monsieur Pantin, whom, I confess, I have not wit enough to amuse myself with; so that I seldom let him make his appearance, but when Parson Hall comes, for they shew each other to great advantage.

I have not seen Mrs. Pilkington's Memoirs, (except the specimen in the Magazine) nor

Con.

Con. Philipps's Apology. I will set about getting some of these modern books, to enable me to bear a share in the conversation of, and correspondence with, my friends; which I am sensible I am incapable of at present: and as I should least choose to write to you of any of them, whilst in my state of stupidity and ignorance, I abridge my letter all I can, and hasten to assure you that I am, with great esteem,

Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I shall hope to hear the beginning of next week, which day I may expect you, if you write on Saturday.—I write to-day to Mr. Outing, by the Evesham gardeners, to say I hope to see him by the end of next week, if not before. I do not know whether they will find him out.—I think you promised me the Poem upon Sickness to read, and I hope for something upon *economy*; which will be very wholesome for me; and yet I am persuaded a very agreeable medicine, as it will be made up by such good and skilful hands.

L E T T E R XIII.

SIR,

I Always respected your man Tom for his honesty and fidelity to his master; but at present I respect him for the good *tidings* he *bringeth*, which make my heart full glad. It is plain your thoughts and mine correspond; for I have been all the last week considering which day I should fix for going to the Leaflowes, or whether I should not first desire your company at Barrells.—Mr. Meredith came hither last Tuesday, and went for London on Thursday. We talked of your charming situation; but more of your agreeable company: both which he wishes to be acquainted with; and I offered to carry him to wait on you, as on Monday next, and said he might go on from thence to Cheshire; which he hearkened to with pleasure, but told me he was obliged to get there by Saturday, and that he intended coming here again next Friday, in his way thither; so would not let me write you word, for fear of disappointing you. I sent however to Mr. Hall (as I don't love to jumble in a post-chaise alone) to ask him to go with me

on

on Monday or Tuesday next; but he was posting away to preach the assize sermon yesterday at Warwick, and from thence to go to Rugby the latter end of this week; where he expects to receive his final answer about the Living of Harborough; and in case he succeeds, will be obliged to ride about the country still farther; but if not, will return to Henley next Saturday, and wait upon you with me, as he writes me word. In this uncertain state, confused by all these half engagements, your trusty 'squire found me, and seemed come to my relief, by bringing me word you was ready to make me happy in your company, and Mr. and Miss Dolman's and your brother's, at my cell. Now the best way I can think of to decide of this affair is, that I should go, at all events, to the Leasowes on Monday to dinner; and that ye all return with me, or immediately after me, to Barrells, as best suits you; by which means I shall have more of your company, and I may attend Mr. Meredith to a place he is so desirous to see if he can put off his journey to that day; which I am apt to think he may easily do, as Birmingham is in his way home: so he will only dine at the Leasowes, where I propose, with your leave, to take a night's lodging; as you was so kind to desire: By which means I

shall have more of your company, and shall see your improvements more at leisure; and your woods will afford a different scenery, when they are embrowned by the shade of the evening, or when the moon glimmers through their leaves: whereas I have never yet seen them but in full sun-shine, and when walking (had it been in any other place) had been a toil. If you do not write me a line to the contrary, by Thursday's post, you will see me next Monday, the 7th instant, at your *Ferme ornée*; and I hope to bring you on the 8th, to my *Ferme négligée*; for that you will find it. Having had so much company in my house, and the hay-harvest having employed my servants, the gardens were neglected just when they ought to have been put in order; and the dry time has prevented the new-laid turf from joining; and my pavillion, when almost finished, was pulled down again in part, to add to it a shrine for Venus: so that it is still uncovered; and the roses, &c. are all faded, and give an ugly aspect to my shrubbery; which waits your directions to be new modelled: But in this imperfect condition, if it affords ever so little pleasure to Mr. Dolman, it will have done part of what I wish it to do: and though I cannot treat him so elegantly as I treated you with truffles and Cassadi-bread, he will

will be heartily welcome to the beans and bacon my Farm produces, and to the cheese of my own dairy.—I do not wonder your neighbours visit you frequently; but I wish they do not envy you, and endeavour to spy some fault. I am persuaded I shall like your small Gothic building better than their huge one.—I am proud of having mentioned the carpet pavement. I believe the Duchess of Somerset's is not famous enough to have given occasion to the words spoken by the ladies that visited yours. I am also proud of having shewn my approbation of your place, and of the manner of your improving it, even in its infancy; since it is now universally admired by all who have any just pretensions to taste.

I should have begun my letter with condolence upon your late illness, and congratulations upon your recovery; but as it would have done you no good, you will excuse my neglect, and be so just as to believe, that, though it is mentioned last in my letter, my good wishes for your health and happiness are ever uppermost in my mind, however *derangé* the manner of expressing them in my letters may be: for what they want in form, they have in sincerity; which

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I am

40 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

I am apt to think you esteem better than form.
So I shall only call myself

Sincerely yours,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

The clergyman, who has troubled the press with his Lamentations over Polyanthos's, and has prefixed my name to his performance, is one Mr. Perks, of Coughton, whom I never saw but twice; and he had never seen Barrells when he wrote it, but came to see it, in order to make his Dedication in praise of it. But I think he forms his supposition of my taking delight in flowers (not from my Shrubbery, but) from the art, with which he says I have adorned my apartments. Parson Allen, who does not pretend to be a poet, has made a Dedication in imitation of the other; but, I think, better.

SECOND POSTSCRIPT; or, *More Last Words.*

My Daughter owes me a grudge for not carrying her to the Leasowes, and I reproach myself for it: but the day we were at Birmingham, it never ceased raining.

A DEDI-

DEDICATION

OF A

PASTORAL ELEGY

HUMBLY IMITATED.

(Mr. PERKS's Dedication to Lady LUXBOROUGH,
corrected by Parson ALLEN.)

Here fragrant flow'rs refresh the musing fair,
Whilst zephyrs waft their odours thro' the
air.

Luxuriant shoots, with one united blow,
Rival the colours of the various bow.
The warbling songsters on the blossom'd thorn
Stretch their melodious throats, and wake the
morn.

The bee laborious hums around the bower,
And sips the balmy sweets of ev'ry flower.

'Tis

'Tis thus the varied scene treats every sense ;
Displays the charms of youth and innocence.

Within, new objects strike the wond'ring eye,
And strokes of sculpture with the pencil vye.
Here breathing shadows each apartment grace,
And meagre bustos shew their marble face.
The robed Peer, full drawn, majestic stands,
And mimic miniature in motley bands.
There Nature's sports, from India's distant shore,
Or dress'd in lighter moss, or clad in ore !
See heaps of shells, old Ocean's glossy store,
Have left their briny cells, and weep no more ;
Beneath the rolling wave no longer sleep,
Swept from the rocks and caverns of the deep ;
Some skilful hand the pleasing task pursue,
And add new lustre to their native hue.
The grotto's pride, when gayly interchang'd,
They shine, in regular confusion rang'd.
But O ! the loveliest sight is yet conceal'd,
By human art never to be excell'd.
Here ev'ry flow'r, that decks th' enamell'd meads,
Or thro' the grove its vernal beauty spreads,
In lively tints so natural, so true,
A piece more perfect Titian never drew.
Thus Taste polite, and Judgment more refin'd,
Feast the admiring eye, and cultivate the mind.

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

SIR, Barrells, Wednesday, July 27,

I HAVE just time to tell you, that I received your most agreeable and obliging letter yesterday; and shall be glad of your company and your Brother's, &c. next Wednesday, being to dine at Mrs. Chester's on Tuesday.—Outing writes word that if his cousin returns to London, as he intends, next Monday, he will come for two or three days to Barrells; and hopes to meet you and Miss Dolman.—A report prevails at Henley which would give me great concern, but that your letter being dated last Sunday makes me think it almost impossible to be true: yet it shocked me a good deal to hear the many circumstances repeated belonging to this supposed fatal accident; which is, that Mr. Dolman was drowned last Thursday, being a fishing in Grove Field, near Warwick; and that his corpse was brought to Litchfield on Friday, and on Saturday two gentlemen set out separate roads for Oxford to get his scholarship; one of which brought this news to the Swan, and told it to Mr. Hall and Mr. Holyoak, and another

44 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

another Oxford scholar whom Mr. Hall is acquainted with, came the next day to Henley and confirmed the same, expressing great concern. They added, that Mr. Welch's son, of Grove Park, was fishing with Mr. Dolman, but could not save him; and that his estate comes to his sister. How to reconcile all this with your sending me his compliments in your letter on Sunday, some *Œdipus* must determine. I will hope it is as *false* as it is *true* that I am, Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R XV.

Barrells, Tuesday night, August 23d, 1748.

SIR,

IT is well I am an *invalid*; but even *that* I fear will not be an excuse sufficient for my delaying thanks, so greatly due to you, Sir, to Miss Dolman, and to your Brother, for the friendly visit you made me at Barrells; which I sincerely assure you gave me both health and pleasure: for I look upon *these* two as inseparable

nable companions : and I am certain the *ragged* walk to Ulenhall Chapel (however conducive to *health*, according to the Physician, or to *happiness*, according to the Divine) would never have inclined me to undertake it, had not the company I was with smoothed the road, and levelled the ruts ; for such was the effect it had at least upon my imagination. But the roads are as *rough* as ever, and I as *lazy* ; which shews that *we hermits* are to blame, droning away our time in our cells. For my part, I had a fever, and kept my bed yesterday : I am not very strong to-day ; but to restore my strength and health, (at least to give me pleasure) I propose to wait on Miss Dolman at Brome next Monday (the 29th) to breakfast and dinner ; and to return to Barrells after viewing the *Giants* Castle at Hagley. I will then deliver to you the books you lent me, as also the *green* manuscript which I so much valued myself upon having stole from your pocket. Nothing could make me release it but your promise in your last letter of giving it me with Additions. *Those* I shall always covet ; and amendments I shall never require.

I have not yet been well enough to answer Lady Hertford's letter ; so have not sent her any thing more of yours. Queen Elizabeth
you

you know she has; and as *she* pleased her as well as myself in her first dress, I have not sent her in the other.

Mr. Outing (*notwithstanding* the syllabubs) arrived here about two days after you left Warwickshire. He tells me nothing about maids or widows; but does not seem very ready to make new syllabubs, nor to forget old friends: but I confess that his neglecting the opportunity of telling them so, does not set his friendship off to the best advantage. Perhaps he leaves those marks of it in the dark, to let them appear in the more resplendent manner when he has held out the lantern of truth to enlighten them, as to his late seemingly remiss conduct. And upon this affair he is now I believe employed, having asked for ink and paper.

I think I saw a locust on Sunday last: Mr. Bradley found it in his corn singly. If it is one, one might call it a *flying grasshopper*; for it is exactly like the grasshopper, only two inches and a half long, and has a brown complexion, and six feet and four wings; and eats leaves.

Smith's Designs would undoubtedly (if well coloured) be delightful objects, as I suppose them all drawn in perspective: and for the colouring, you need be in no fear of either error

or

or expence, as you can do them so well yourself.

My niches are as hollow as when you left them. The mason I have not seen; and the intended alteration I had almost forgot, for want of seeing the place. Such indolence is inexcusable; yet it does not make me in the smallest degree forgetful of what regards my friends, nor of their advice; which I am ever grateful for, and wish only I had spirits good enough to hasten the execution of the workmen.

My paper allows me only to say, that I am,

Your faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER XVI.

Barrells, Monday night, Sept. 5th, 1748.

SIR,

IT is with great pleasure I learn within these few hours, that Barrells is eight miles nearer to the Leafowes than I have hitherto thought it; and that the deep ruts I had formed an idea of, are levelled down to bowling-greens. Such

is

is the account my friend Johnson gives; who serves me with coals; lives at Northfield; is acquainted with *Hales Owen*, the *Grange*, and with the *Leasowes*, where he says lives one Mr. Shenstone. He, by my desire, puts my postillion into that lucky road to-morrow to carry you this letter; by which I acquaint you of the pleasure I propose from it: for in case it proves as *he* says; and that you are not otherwise engaged, you will see me at the *Leasowes* any day you please to name, either of this week or the next after Wednesday. Mr. Outing and Mr. Hall will accompany me: and we propose going early in the morning and returning at night to Barrells.—You see, Sir, what an agreeable place, adorned with taste, and more agreeable conversation, subjects you to: yet you might for this season have escaped the trouble of our company, had it not been for your neighbour Johnson's *good report*; who, had he been a divine, might perhaps have conducted more pilgrims to heaven by this favourable account, than others have done by the merit they propose to them, in reward for labouring through thorns, and struggling with dangers; and might by the same rule have freed you from the interruption our visit may give to eremitical retirement; if, like other more pious divines, he

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had left your roads as rugged and perilous as they appeared to us before he traced them out.

I write a line to Miss Dolman, (whom I hope to meet at your house) and return her Pilkington's Memoirs, which entertained me agreeably. I find, upon reading them over, that the person so often mentioned and distinguished by the letters J. W——le, is Mr. Worfdale the Painter. x

I suppose Saturday or Monday next will not be disagreeable to you for our visit: but leave it to your choice.

Pardon this scrawl, wrote after midnight; and be so kind as either to send my servant to Broom with my message to Miss Dolman, and the book; or else to take charge of them for her.

My compliments to Mr. Joseph Shenstone.

Apprentice to St. God. I studied but marrying his
 wife's niece without consent was dismissed by his mas-
 ter. his singing, mimicry, and satirical spirit he
 gained many patrons & was appointed Master
 Curate to the Board of Ordnance. He published
 several small pieces songs &c. besides
 a Cure for a cold. E. W. Hall & Co.
 the Assembly a piece in which Worfdale played
 the part of Lady Penteghele admirably
 The Queen of Spain
 The extravagant Justice
 He died June 13. 1767 & was buried at St. Pauls
 Churchyard with this epitaph composed by himself
 eager to get, but not to keep the self
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L E T T E R XVII.

Barrells, Sept. 11th, 1748.

YOUR benevolence, Sir, to your friends does not leave them at your gate, but accompanies them home; and, lest it should not remain in their memory, is refreshed by new marks of it. As such I look upon your message and letter to-day; and have the pleasure to assure you, in answer to your kind enquiry, that I am so far from bodily suffering, that I am better in health than I have been for some time past; and my mind is greatly regaled by the ideas your charming situation and more charming improvements have indulged it with. I must in particular commend your last alteration; for I never saw a more advantageous one than the clew you have given to lead to your wood, &c.

Your apologies in point of lodging, suppose me to have neglected your invitation, for fear of not meeting with so good a one at the Leasowes as in the ruts of the Port-way, or some dirty lane nearer home; which might have been our lot, as it was dark. But I hope you will do

+ Anne ux. W^m Smith of Ridgeacre Esq: Sal^{me}
 Frances ux. Mr Walter Woodcock
 Mary ux. — Hervey M.D. of Stourbridge Esq:
 Catherine ux. Mr Tho: Tardou of Herneham
 Elizabeth ux. — Mr Benj^m Briscoe

me more justice than to suppose I would have been so unkind to myself as to have quitted a place where I was so pressingly invited, and so agreeably entertained, had I not been obliged to return home that night. But lest you should think this a compliment, I promise faithfully (and as it is for my own sake, you may believe me) to stay, next time I go to the Leaſowes, all that night, and as far of the next day as you shall think reasonable and safe for travelling. This promise, or rather threat, you may depend upon: so beware.

I was glad of the *honour* of meeting Lord
 X Dudley and his Sister at your house; and hope
 for *that* of seeing them at mine. The rest of
 the company which happened to come to you
 were extremely agreeable; and I regretted no-
 thing but want of day-light which deprived me
 of so many pleasures at once.

As to Parson Hall, I never thought there was
 any offence given him: if there was, I gave it
 first; but being unconscious of it, I never made
 him an excuse; but, on the contrary, reproached
 him for leaving my chaise a quarter of a mile
 from home; where, when I came, I found him
 very good-humoured, and he lay here. How-
 ever, when I received your letter this afternoon,
 I sent it to him to Henley to read: he returned

had 5 letters

to Mr
 Sam

it immediately, with the inclosed answer ; and I believe him so sincere, that he never once imagined any person could take any thing that was said but as a joke : and I confess myself not only so *sincere*, but also so *stupid*, that I did not conceive it could be supposed otherwise ; or that what was said was capable of admitting of any other interpretation, till your letter reminded me, that perhaps before strangers it might not be proper : but if such is the case, before strangers one must sew up one's mouth, and be exceeding bad company, lest they should imagine one wants common humanity to one's own friend ; which would here be the case, as I look upon Mr. Hall as mine.

In the hurry yesterday of pleasure and fatigue, I forgot to return thanks for a fine greyhound I received from the Leasowes by my servant the last time I sent. He has caught me a hare ; and seems of a race to catch many.—I beg my best compliments to Mr. Joseph Shentone, whose obliging temper is to be liked by all, and is much regarded by me.

I suppose Miss Dolman is returned to Broom ; but hope you will make my compliments to her and her Brother in the most friendly manner ; and wish so many miles and rugged ways did not part us. I begin to envy the ants, who are
hid

Lucy
but on
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c

hid from the world, and the world from them, till the summer sun returns to enliven it. *This* you will say is a sad prospect I have proposed to my view; perhaps more really serious than Mr. Hervey's of the Tombs! But *true* however it is, that winter in the country is too solemn to give pleasure, though it may give awe; and I love it as much as a child does a rigid parent. But to put off the evil day, I hope you will assist by lengthening out the autumn as long as possible, by your company here and your Brother's, and by your agreeable letters when I do not see you.—I dare not name the Green Book now, though *precious* to me; for you have paid great interest for the loan of it, by the six lines you sent me to-day, which are delightfully pretty; and which Lord Dudley and myself ought X to think ourselves honoured by: but yet, the *interest* paid, the *principal* is still due, and the *Green Book* is still my object. Whatever you write, or design, is so; therefore it is saying no more than you have heard me say before; and which I am hopeful you will believe, knowing that I deserve by my sincerity to be esteemed

Your most faithful servant,

E 3

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Succeeded his cousin as Baron Dudley in 1740 but died unmarried Oct 21. 1757 when the Barony of Dudley became in abeyance

P. S. Mr. Sanders speaking of the dimension of his Optic Glasses yesterday, put me in mind of measuring mine. It is near three inches and a half diameter, convex on one side, and flat on the other; in which latter account it resembles his: but I hope you will have some further instructions from him about it, as he seems to be very ingenious and curious, and I may glean after you.

L E T T E R XVIII.

S I R,

Barrells, Sunday, October 16th, 1748.

THE impatience with which I waited for the pleasure of hearing from you, in answer to my last, I looked upon as a proof that nothing I could read was so agreeable to me as what you wrote: and had I been doubtful in my opinion, your letter and Autumn verses would have confirmed it. This is no compliment, nor am I guilty of flattery. I speak my mind; so that if I am guilty of an error, it must be in judgment: and I do not believe it possible, even for all your modesty, to pack a jury that would find me so in *this case*: yet *just* as I
am

am to your writings, I am partial to the autumn season:—perhaps you will become so when grown somewhat older; and not exclaim against that *pensive* season (as you call it) which, if it does not afford all the gaieties of spring and summer, is however attended with fewer disappointments. Would you in spring enjoy the beauty of your parterre, a sudden shower drives you home; in summer you are obliged to shut out the delicious prospect of the ripened grain and the various labours of the peasant, lest, like him, you should be scorched by the sunbeams, which your spreading waters reflect the more strongly, or be caught, though under the shelter of an oak, by the merciless lightning: whereas in autumn, though more languid, the sun has still power to cheer, and its gentle heat causes no pain; it still serves to ripen fruits, which are to be your consolation in winter; and though the days are short, every hour of them may be enjoyed in meads and groves, where indeed the trees lose their verdure; but it is no more than changing their dress (as some lowly nymphs have done of late) from a plain green gown to a rich brocade mixed with ten thousand shades: and as it is wove by the hand of Nature, should still please in its variety, though not equally as in its bloom; nor should

its more solemn and decent appearance anticipate by reflection the rigours of winter. Too soon she will make her shivering naked appearance, and make us with ourselves buried with the ant, till spring returns, unless some social friends assemble (as at Barrells in 1747) to supply with their conversation the absence of the sun.—I cannot persuade Mr. Outing to allow of my indulgence to autumn; though, to favour my argument, Nature has been so remarkably kind this last October to adorn my Shrubbery with the flowers that usually blow at Whitsuntide, and deck my apple-trees with blossoms, which we saw upon two of the trees three days ago, and have now primroses and polyanthus growing. Perhaps it is not so at the Leafowes; for though the same sun lights us, it may be clouded over there, and your flowers *withered all when Thomson died*.—Nature indeed should mourn for one who sung so well her praises; but *that* debt paid, and his urn placed in your grove, (so worthy of its reception) she will no longer weep her Poet, but adopt you her favourite to succeed him.—His Castle of Indolence I have read at last, and admire several parts of it. He makes the Wizard's Song most engaging: but, as Lady Hertford observes, it is no wonder; for

“He needs no Muse who dictates from the Heart;”

and

and Thomson's heart was ever devoted to that Archimage. Do not copy him too nearly in that; it would be cruel to your friends, if, like him,

" ————— your ditty sweet

" You loathed much to write, nor cared to repeat."

I shall be glad to see the model of your urn; but more glad to see the urn itself in your grove, and its shadow trembling in your transparent stream. I hope it will be well executed, as it will give you a pensive pleasure, and to all who see and read how you have celebrated the memory of one who so well deserved it. Future urns no doubt will be raised to you; but long may they remain unnecessary! though, according to your proposing to *end your labours* (which is ending your pleasures) as soon as two more things are erected, I should look upon your death as very near, and that you imagine he is to snatch you to his arms just as you are laying the last white brick of the second garden-seat: for no less a monarch than he could stop the course of your elegant improvements. If I guess right, the most rapid current, or (what is yet stronger) the most aspiring ambition might as well be stopped as your inclination cease which forces you to adorn your villa, or ever
your

your taste descend to the vulgar rule of leaving things as you found them. I often wish I had had that same useful vulgar prudence; and yet how ashamed should I have been of it, when friends of taste had seen me enjoy the thistles and nettles that adorned this savage place, as contentedly as the ass that feeds on them!

If your *expostulations* with Mr. Lyttelton were *brusques*, his visit was as much so; and upon such occasions I never love to be behind-hand with great people.

The eldest son of Archimage, and the little round fat oily Man of God, talk of making you a visit the week that is now coming in; and for that I waited to write: but unless weather, roads, and all conveniences conspire, I tell the former, I am sure he will not set out. But he says I do not form a right notion of him; so I leave it to him to prove. In the mean time, they desire their compliments to you; I suppose I need not say I mean Mr. Outing and Mr. Hall.—I will send Doddsley's three volumes by them.—As to your thought about improving the Show-box, I do not despise it for believing you took it from the thing called London Cries, which children play with; for the great Handel has told me that the hints of his very best songs have several of them been owing to
the

the sounds in his ears of cries in the street : and why may your eyes not take a hint from the manner in which they are exhibited in the fore-mentioned little machine ? but I question if it can be so well performed in so large a thing as these machines we have. The paper would rumple if not fastened to pasteboard, and if fastened, would be too stiff to roll round the rollers ; yet I do not know whether, as you observe, some sort of canvas might not do. It would be a good amusement in the Wizard's Castle ; for by this means it would give no trouble to bring all the beautiful gardens and palaces of the world to your view, as his chrystal globe by turning shewed him the various turns of man. For my part, I propose to have at my Castle of Barrells Æolus's Harp ; a music which will never cease here as long as the winds maintain their power.

I do not complain of your punctuality as to paying interest for the Green Book ; but I am still as impatient for the principal, as if you had allowed me nothing to live on. I am also jealous of the Red Book, who robs me I fear of your time. Mr. Outing's anxiety is for the Red one ; so I expect no compassion from him : all I desire is, that, whether green or red, you will let me have *some* of your *Works* to subsist upon

60 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

upon this winter: and if I did not fear to make too many demands at once, I would also beg for *some* of your company.

I am, Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R XIX.

SIR,

Barrells, November 2d, 1748.

IN the last letter I wrote you (which I hope you received) I promised to send you Doddsley's Miscellany by Mr. Outing and Mr. Hall the week following; but finding they have not yet fixed a day for their journey, I am resolved to venture sending the books by your faithful postwoman, (to whom Mr. Bradley will deliver them) rather than to wait any longer for messengers who may perhaps never perform their promise: for the beauties of autumn will soon decay, though they are not decayed yet; the roads grow bad, and the days, which are already short, will be shorter; and Mr. Outing's business, which obliges him to be in London before

before this month is out, may all serve as reasons perhaps for their not going to the Leawes this year, and may be the cause of my seeming to neglect what you desire of me; which I am incapable of: and therefore, in justice to myself, I send the books another way; but in justice to Mr. Outing, (whom I often accuse of indolence) I must say that his inclination and friendship in this case got the better of his laziness, and of every dragon that might fall in his way to obstruct his journey; but not caring to go alone so far, and Mr. Hall being bent upon the same visit, they agreed to go together; and the latter, after fixing several days, and being prevented by his Father's illness once, and various things at other times, tells Mr. Outing now that he has no horse, and had rather defer going till spring; so that I foresee Mr. Outing will be deprived of the pleasure he proposed for the present, unless you will be so good as to come to Barrells, where you would not only see him, but give me the pleasure of your company, which you did promise me when I saw you last; and which will make me very happy: since I value it greatly in the blooming season of the year, you may judge what a cordial it will be in the frozen solitary season that approaches. I ought not indeed to invite you at such a time,

but

62 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

but it is a proof that I am sensible of your good nature, which takes pleasure in nothing so much as in *obliging*; and I have for that reason ventured to point out the way in which you are sure of obliging greatly,

Sir,

Your faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S. Could you lend me the *Shuttlecock*? It is for Mr. Allen to read once more.

Mr. Outing begs his compliments to you, and hopes you will be convinced (and I hope the same) that, notwithstanding my joke about his laziness in my former letter, he was ready and desirous to perform this journey; and he now repents waiting for Mr. Hall; so that you cannot scruple favouring him with your company here; or if you should be so ceremonious as that, I might yet claim a visit from you.

My best compliments, pray, at Broem, and to your Brother, whom I hope to see here.—I am impatient for the Green Book.—Mr. Outing and I are gathering flower-seeds proper for your grove; which I will send you to sow in spring, with some *Star of Bethlehem* and some *Layers of Passion Flowers* for your Hermit, and to make
your

your Hermitage more proper for the reception of Mr. James Hervey, if he should travel your way.

LETTER XX.

Barrells, Sunday Evening, Nov. 13th, 1748.

S I R,

THE uncertainty of my receiving an answer from you in due time, according to the date, and also my present uncertainty as to which day of this month I am most likely to have the pleasure of your company at Barrells, and, above all, the fear of being, by some accident deprived of it, or by my absence seem undeserving of it, are all reasons which oblige me without the least delay to acquaint you, that, before I received your last welcome letter, I had yielded to Mr. and Mrs. Reynalds's strong invitation to Somervile's-Aston; where, had I refused to go, yet Mr. Outing must have gone, having part of his wardrobe there (as his first visit from London was to them); as also, some business which he says he must go to finish, even if I should again be prevented from going where I have been so long expected: and I dare say

64 'LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

you would be sorry to find him gone from Barrells; and more so, to have a second time reason to think his friendship remiss in its duty. Therefore, Sir, these considerations weighed, I determine to send a messenger to the Leaflowes to-morrow with this, and my compliments to you and Mr. Joseph Shenstone; and to acquaint you, that our day of march from Barrells to Aston is fixed for Friday next, the 18th instant; and that of our return for the Friday following, the 25th: and we shall depend upon seeing you the first moment your business or inclination permits. How readily would my pen and wishes fix the 26th, that being the earliest moment; but you observe in your letter to Mr. Outing, that fixing days is an encroachment upon liberty; therefore I am silent, and submit to the time which suits your convenience. And as I do not intend to make any more excursions till spring returns, and do not expect any company here, I fear no interruptions from this side the *Lickee*, (how do you spell it?) and flatter myself there will be none on the other: then shall I see you arrive perhaps through snow or rain, which will heighten my gratitude, but moderate my joy. The Green Book will add greatly to my pleasure, and your conversation will make me prefer
winter

winter to my favourite autumn, though I have refused that preference to spring: but to say the truth, no season can be disagreeable in company one likes; nor none agreeable with the insipid or unsociable, the unfriendly, or the unmeaning, the designing, the tale-bearing, the pedantic, or the ignorant, &c. &c. from all which may the Divine Powers deliver us; and may I soon enjoy the reverse company in my chimney corner! then shall I be agreeably entertained; Mr. Outing be eased from his fears of not seeing you before he leaves the country; and Mr. Hall be enabled to make his own excuses to you, and in particular to Mr. Joseph Shennstone for not performing his promise. He seems penitent, and I galled him a little, though with your gentle and kind reproaches, which he felt, notwithstanding at that instant he was wrapt in ecstasies of joy and admiration; for he had purchased an incomparable horse the day before. The beauty of novelty is great with him; but it will be decayed before this month is out, and he will then have the more time to give you marks of his friendship; which I dare say is always sincere, and not transient, as his passion for his horse may be.—Now I have answered for him,

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permit

66 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

permit me to say for myself, that I am most
steadily, Sir,

Your sincere and obliged
humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

If it suited you to go with us to Somerviles-Aston, I can answer for your welcome there, as well as for the additional pleasure it will be to me and to Mr. Outing; who would tell you so himself, but the messenger who is to carry the letter cannot wait; and he expects to see you so soon, that my pen only speaks for him now.

Lord Dudley gave me hopes of coming to Barrells, which would do me honour and pleasure.

L E T T E R XXI.

Wooton, Sunday Evening, Nov. 20th, 1748.

S I R,

THE inclosed, of ancient date, will inform you of the dilemma I have been in.—Having a kind of hospital of sick servants was no agreeable

agreeable circumstance; and the fear of obliging my friends at Somerviles-Aston, or of missing of the pleasure of your company at Barrells, had you come whilst I was there, were reasons that diminished the happiness I proposed by both those visits; mine to them, and yours to me. To prevent these misfortunes, I was sending a messenger to the Leasowes with the inclosed, when my housekeeper was taken dangerously ill, and obliged me to send my messenger to Aston, instead of the Leasowes, to acquaint them I could not go thither according to my promise: but he met Mr. Reynalds on the road coming to fetch me. He stayed with me from Tuesday till Thursday, every moment expecting you; and the more so, as he found by me, that your design was to come whilst Mr. Outing's business permitted him to stay in Warwickshire, which was not to exceed this month. In short, Mr. Reynalds left me on Thursday, but insisted upon my promising to go to Aston on Wednesday next, and you with me (for he concluded you would be at Barrells now, because it wants but ten days of the end of the month).—My servant is got pretty well.—Mr. Outing is still here, though he expects every day or hour to receive a summons to go to London; and Mr. Reynalds

68 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

nalds has sent his servant purposely to-day with a letter to desire us not to fail to go on Wednesday, and that he will come again to fetch me; and also an invitation to you to go with us: already he has contrived to keep room for you, therefore you will not stay away upon a supposition of any inconvenience to him. I shall return home on Wednesday, the 30th inst. and shall hope you will return with me, and enliven this melancholy season by your agreeable company.—Mr. Outing despairs of seeing you, unless you come to Aston with

Your faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R XXII.

SIR,

Barrells, December 12th, 1748.

METHINKS I see you by your chimney-side, your pen in your hand, and the Red or Green Book before you, just going to express with poetical elegance some refined or sublime thought, which might have afforded pleasure and improvement to present and future ages; when you are interrupted by your old postwoman, who presents you my insipid letter; you frown a just dislike to the interruption, *re-*
venga

venge yourself with your heel on the innocent plaister of your room, and then you begin to consider seriously what can have drawn upon you the plague of an epistolary correspondence, to which you had endeavoured to put a stop by not answering my two last letters: and you will not guess at the reason, unless I tell you that I write now chiefly for other people's business. In the first place, Lady Hertford, at my recommendation, (thinking it would be agreeable to you) consents to subscribe to Mr. Smith's Drawings; which you will be pleased to acquaint him of: and I was willing to let you see the success of my recommendation as soon as I could. You seemed to espouse the man's interest, and to approve of the Views he is going to publish; and I could have wished to serve more essentially any person recommended by you.—I am next, Sir, to return Mr. Allen's thanks and his compliments to you, with Mr. Whistler's Poem, Mr. Reynolds's devoirs I am also desired to pay you, and those of Mr. Outing; who were both sorry you did not accept of the invitation to Somevile-Aston.—Here ends my embassy.

Before I conclude, I must tell you, that I went to Aston on the day I wrote you word I should go, and returned hither on Thursday, the first

of this month : which was only one day later than I intended, and that was because of the death and burial of one of the invalid servants, which (as I wrote you word) made an hospital of my house at that time.—Mr. Outing returned with me, hoping to find you here, and did not leave me till last Thursday. I am now alone, and the season not inviting to travellers ; but the weather and roads are good ; and as you find fewer horrors in Winter than in Autumn, I will hope that you will once more enliven it with your company : my hearths will blaze the brighter, and Eolus will set his harp to softer music, or seem to do so, if you are here ; and social Winter will vie not only with fruitful Autumn, but also with flowery Spring, and be sure of success, if you favour my Hermitage with your company.

I send you Lady Hertford's (or rather the Duchess of Somerset's) Letter to peruse, and desire you will return it as soon as possible, for I have not answered it.—If you have the Peruvian Letters, I shall be glad to see them.

Mr. Hall stays for this scrawl, and only allows me time to say that

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant, and

Constant Correspondent ;

I wish

I wish I could say, in the style of the weekly News-papers,

"Your constant Reader,"

H. LUXBOROUGH.

My compliments at Broom; and I hope to see Mr. Joseph Shenstone here.

L E T T E R XXIII.

SIR, Barrells, Sunday, December 18th, 1748.

THOUGH there were not in the reproofs I took the liberty to give you, the same delicacy as in those the Duchess of Somerset gave me, I may venture to say they arose from the same motive; which I am proud of, and will, I hope, produce the same effect; which will give me great pleasure. Her's have already obliged me to be more than punctual; for I have wrote to her Grace twice in eight days, to atone for having wrote but once in eight months: and you, Sir, have already atoned for all the remissness I accused you of, by the very obliging letter I have received this even-

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ing;

ing; and by reviving my hopes of seeing you soon at Barrells. It is sufficient, that your not coming or writing sooner, was no way owing to your want of friendship: *that* ensures your pardon; and I find myself now become the penitent sinner, but expect the same pardon; for I am sensible I was too severe (though meant in raillery) when I reprimanded you for not coming or writing into Warwickshire; whereas I ought to have considered I was in another county nine or ten days, and that you could not guess I had left orders to be sent for if you came, or to have your letters brought me if you wrote.—After my return, indeed, Mr. Outing's expectations of seeing you were raised by our not hearing from you; which he attributed to your design of coming here before his return to London; and his expectations raised my hopes; so that the last six days (which was the full time he could allow himself to sojourn here) seemed so many years to him, and made me think the time the longer, though I had not equal reason to grieve at the disappointment, being sustained by hope, whilst he has cause to despair perhaps for many months to come. But really, as he was the aggressor last year, the affair seems to me to be already compromised between you, with-

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put the least occasion of reference to a third person.

Mr. Allen was here last week, but is gone; so that I cannot make your compliments to him now, but I can answer that he will be glad to make his to you in person, as he has a great esteem for you. He thinks so well of Mr. Whistler's Poem, and is so pleased with most of the thoughts, that he wishes them new dressed, or rather the whole thing revised by some good poet of age more mature than that gentleman's then was, and imagines it worthy of their care.

Permit me to interrupt what I am saying with a curse against crow-pens. If I was to add to the curses in the Service for Ashwednesday, the crows would be loaded with them; or rather, the men who invented putting their quills to this use, which at present gives me intolerable fatigue, and will prevent my saying half of what I would say to you:—How much more friendly are the geese! Mine were all retired to rest before I returned from my devotions at Henley; and I never once thought or imagined that turkies could produce a quill capable of writing so good a hand as your letter is wrote in. Surely the bird you killed for Lord Dudley, and with whose quill you wrote
to

to me, must have been a phoenix in disguise ! How could we have been both so elegantly feasted by any common bird ! If my turkies carried so much wit in their quills, they should not live till morning, but should be sacrificed to you. But if, on the contrary, they can only convey *my wit*, let *them* live, and let *me* be silent for *your* sake.—Your want of gilt paper was no more to be regarded than your want of a coronet or crown. My want of a pen and ink is really want of common necessaries, bread or water : yet the fact is so, that I can come at neither that will make what I write intelligible. All I can do for you is, to make my letter the shorter. But I must first commend your intended alterations in your house, though they prolong the time of your absence. The room you describe, is of a good dimension, as well as elegant : the library will be the same, and will be a lasting pleasure to you. It is now only in embrio : the improving it to the perfection you propose, will be a daily amusement. Your fine prospects and waters will assist you in making every thing round it enchanting : but if you should be as sensible of the beauties of the Leasowes as your friends are, they would never be able to get you from it ; and as I should be one of the greatest sufferers,

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I will not encourage you to like it too much. Yet I may venture to say, that I think the building you send me the sketch of, will be a fine ornament to one of your woods, and your urn a very proper and friendly addition to the other. You say nothing of either of the Sketches, so that I do not know which you have fixed upon: I think those I have marked with 2 and 3, are too common a shape, and would do better in a church than a grove; *that* you have wrote the inscription upon, is a better shape in my eye; but I think the top-ornament not very pretty, though better than the flame in the second. The garland of flowers mends the shape of the third: but I imagine you have fixed on the first, and think it will be very handsome. I do not think the pipe, &c. on the fourth would be ugly if hung by a ribbon to the knot which joins the foliage; but I do not so well like the base of the urn: but I speak with great ignorance, and consequently with great submission, which you will say is not always a consequence of ignorance; but it ought to be so, and is so where the ignorant are not by nature fools: *à propos* to which, permit me to say, that I must be a great one, if I think myself capable of criticising upon your writings of any sort.—The elegies you have the goodness to
intrust

intrust to me, shall be as secure as if they were a treasure locked up in an iron chest and screwed to the floor. I will indulge *myself* whilst they are in my possession, with looking them over; but am incapable of assisting *you*, by giving my judgment upon them: without appearing too humble, I may say this, even without censuring Nature; for there must be some learning as well as common sense, to be able to correct works of that kind: however, if you will do as I have heard some great poet did, (I think Moliere) who read his Works to his ignorant footman before he published them; judging that what appeared wrong to him was wrong, because it must be unnatural; I may be of about as much use and no more.

Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds wished your company at Aston, when I was there, for a double reason:—their own pleasure, and the pleasure they take in entertaining all their guests with what is most agreeable to their several *tastes*; and they knew your company would be agreeable to *mine*. They do not talk of coming to Barrells at Christmas, nor before the winter is over; but I am persuaded Mr. Reynolds himself would come with speed, if I could let him know when you would be here. It is a journey of only three hours on horseback.—I return
thanks

thanks for the Flower Piece, and will read it with pleasure, as you recommend it.

My head-servants are recovered. She who died was a young housemaid. I am obliged to you, Sir, for enquiring.—My five cows continue well, though every body's cows die round them. I look upon it as a peculiar blessing to me, who am indebted to them for perfect health. I eat heartily, grow too fat, and have not tasted wine, beer, nor cyder, these two months or more.—I am now busy in planting the lane that joins the coppice, and have chosen my trees according to my years. The abele is what I plant; which in four years time will produce multitudes of setts, and grow to be a good shade. Sir Robert Cocks has sent me an hundred or two of them as a present.

My compliments attend Mr. Shenstone and the family at Broome: Mr. Hall's attend you, —and I am inviolably

Your sincere friend and servant,

H. L.

L E T T E R

L E T T E R XXIV.

Barrells, January 4th, 1748-9, Nine at Night.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your letter of the 30th ult. this evening, in my bed; to which I was confined by a nervous fever. I could not even read it; for I had not seen day-light since the sun set, the evening before; which tedious time was not once indulged with sweet repose. I am now up, and think it should be morning; but as yet, there appears to me as much irregularity in time as there is in my pulse, and as you are sure to find in my letter; especially as it is wrote under these circumstances. I imagined I could not hold a pen, and I find it only possible by intervals. I have however remembered the late rough notes of my croaking crow enough to reject the assistance of his quill, and have recourse to the goose to return the compliments you make me, imagining the quill of that bird would favour me as it did you: but I am disappointed; she is still stupid; and her sister, who served you so well, must have been bred at Paris, if

one judges by her politeness : and if you have ever employed her in the Poetical Pieces you have sent me, I shall think she has studied at Parnassus.—Why must the silly look of the goose entitle her to be the emblem of nothing but stupidity, when the more silly gravity of the owl allows him to be the emblem of wisdom? Henceforward I shall prefer geese to all other of the feathered kind : at least, the geese of the Leafowes.

I am glad your parlour wants no more to finish it than stucco. Mr. Wright of Worcester stucco'd my Summer-house ; which is well done, as to workmanship. Where more elegance is required, he employs an Italian under him. They did the new work at Warwick Castle, at the Priory, and the inside of the Temple at Lord Archer's.

Mr. Smith's letter to you, Sir, is exceeding polite ; and I rejoice that he looks upon the Leafowes in the light that place appears to me : my vanity is indulged by it, as is my constant desire to perform what is agreeable to you, since he seems so well pleased that the Duchess of Somerset's name should be added to his list, and that I have had the good fortune to procure it. Her Grace has been very ill, and is far from being recovered, though she did me the honour

80 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

honour to write me a compliment of condolence upon the death of Lord St. John, my Brother (at Naples) which she says she did; *knowing that I ever write benefits on a rock, but injuries on sand.* I have, indeed; in this very instance, felt that she does me justice; for the news of his death, which my Brother Bolingbroke wrote last Monday sevensnight; was the first cause of my disorder.—I have been disabled from reading over your Elegies with the attention *I* could wish and *they* do merit; but I am well persuaded, they will please better judges; as they do me; and that they want but little of the assistance of those judges to make them as perfect as yourself and your friends can desire. I confess, the length of the Preface gave me some pain; lest the impatience of many readers might make them lay down the book before they got to what *that* is meant to introduce them to: and in some persons it may raise scruples as to the propriety of the Elegies, which they would not ever have thought of objecting to, as it is a kind of dissertation upon that species of poetry, and might perhaps (if necessary at all) be better printed as such after the Elegies. The many tedious and bad prefaces that have fatigued the world, may have perhaps caused a dislike to such introductions;

however perfect they may be, and made them be condemned by numbering the pages, rather than by reading them; and whether they are right or wrong in doing so, I believe all writers are under a sort of necessity of submitting to the fashion of the times, or of renouncing applause, even when they best deserve it: and that *that* should be your case, who deserve so much, would be a concern to all your friends, and to none more than to me. I confess, I was doubtful if I ought to object to this preface to yourself, though I thought as I now write about it; but was diffident of my judgment, till you mentioned an intention of curtailing it at least. The seventh Elegy I like as well as any I have had time to look over, and was the more inclined to read it, as you had Lord Beauchamp in view in the latter part; but I am apt to think the Duchess would rather be *hurt* than *pleased* at the application of it, because the late Duke was so barbarous as to say that she sent her *son* over to kill him.—Might not the intention and the sense of the Elegy end as properly at the fourteenth stanza “the beauties “of Britannia’s mind?” Perhaps I talk very foolishly; for my small genius (if ever I had any) is grown rusty for want of opportunities of using, and of brightening it, by conversation:

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82 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

and my imagination has been robbed of every spark of fire by the fever, to kindle a flame in my blood and scorch my body, whilst my thoughts freeze: yet it has left in my heart enough warmth to keep friendship alive as long as I exist. And as long as that is, you will be sure, Sir, of having

A most sincere friend

and humble servant in

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I depend upon your promise of coming soon to Barrells; for the symptoms of my illness are not such as threaten its duration, or my death.

Saturday.

P. S. Mr. John Reynolds has lain here one night since you wrote to me; and says he will fly from Aston to Barrells at your call. Mr. Hall will have equal pleasure in seeing you, and less way to come. Mr. Allen has been immured in minced pies, (as I suppose) and has devoutly paid his homage to *his* god *Whist* so long, that his devotion (like that of other bigots) has made him forget his friends, and every worldly duty, beyond the limits of his parish: so that I have not seen him, but am persuaded he is not yet so *hardened* in his ido-

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latry, but he will be retalled the moment you come to convert him; which I the more readily answer for, as the twelve days are now over.

You are to remark, that though my letter was wrote on the 4th instant, my Postscript is not wrote till the 7th at night: and I have the pleasure to tell you, I am recovered from my indisposition, and wait impatiently for your company, and will keep the Elegies safe till then.

You had no need to make an excuse for *grouping* many subjects in the last short page of your letter; for a good master knows how to put every object in its most advantageous light, though they were ever so numerous, and to place them so, that the more closely connected, the more pleasing the groupe, and the more is the judgment of the artist admired, who with his pencil cannot exceed your quill.

L E T T E R XXV.

Barrells, Ash-Wednesday.

IT is true, Sir, *life is chequered*, and with great exactness too. I have often thought it, and now experience it: for your letter was delivered to me last Friday at noon, and gave me exquisite pleasure; and that same evening I was seized with exquisite pain in my right foot, which for three days continued raging, and would make me rave, if I did not think it Justice Divine: for to me to be denied the power to *walk*, is as great a punishment as it is to some (Outing for instance) to be obliged to *ride*. Many perhaps in my case would vainly *blame the Powers above*; but I allow their *dispensation* to be just: for a more moderate pain would not have been adequate to the pleasure your letter, and the Verses inclosed, afforded me. Do not think this a poetical fancy; for if such in *prose*, it would deserve the name of impertinent affectation,—the thing I most despise: but seriously, I am quite lame; and though the pain is gone off, the swelling remains so as to oblige me to wear a man's shoe,

shoe, and consequently the confinement remains, which is less supportable to me than the pain; for I am so unknowing in the science of amusing myself without walking about, that I can scarcely write a line when my standish is brought me, because I did not fetch it myself:—Such is habit! but such also is the order of Providence; and I submit without repining.—Hope assists me greatly upon this occasion; for as you promise to send me soon some more of your poetical performances, I already fancy my pain turned into pleasure.—Had I been a lover of money rather than an admirer of wit, I should have founded my hopes upon the notion some of my neighbours have, that my lameness is the gout, that distemper being as it is said generally accompanied with riches; but I neither believe nor wish them to be in the right. I am sure I am not rich, nor should I be if Peru was mine; and I am as sure, I would not willingly suffer an hour of pain to become so; yet I would suffer many such without murmuring, to hear the conversation or read the sentiments of those I esteem, and who express their thoughts with elegance.

Now I leave my gout and my morals, to hobble into my study for Ware's Book of Inigo

86 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

Jones's Designs ; and shall be glad to see what you will execute from the ideas they may give you. And when every body admires it, I shall perhaps boast that I helped you (though at the third or fourth hand) to that idea, by lending you the book ; as you might boast of helping me to a sound foot if you should send me a crutch. May I never want crutches till you want bright ideas, is the self-interested wish of,

Sir,

Your obliged

and most humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

All I can say in excuse for Parson Hall, is, that, notwithstanding his garb, he is rather forgetful than revengeful.—I sent the letter you wrote him about your busts inclosed to Mr. Outing.

Have you seen what Doddsley has lately published ? viz. Bolingbroke's Tracts, Fitzosborne's Letters, and three volumes of Poetical Miscellanies : I think he calls it a Collection of Poems ; some are old, some middle-aged, and none I believe quite new ; but are
all

all such as deserve to be distinguished and preserved. Your School-mistress is among them. The Tracts you have read often in single pamphlets of flying sheets. Fitz-osborne's Letters I never saw before, nor ever heard of the gentleman; but they are exceeding pretty, in my mind. *By Melmoth*

LETTER XXVI.

SIR,

Barrells, March 23d, 1748-9.

YOUR great punctuality in returning the books has prevented my sending a servant to thank you for your visit; which I may do with infinitely more justice than you can thank me for my *reception*, which was far from deserving to have the word *elegant* joined to it: the word *bearty* is the utmost it could claim, and *that* I may venture to insure for as long as my life lasts; for till *that* ceases, my sincerity will not cease; and my esteem for you, Sir, in particular, I am certain never will. But I always wish to enliven that *heavy* idea which the word *bearty* conveys, by some entertainment agreeable to your taste, when-

ever you favour me with a visit: but, alas! I have had as many disappointments in my wishes as any person ever had, during several years of my life, I also find one in this last desire; for the weather, or my spirits, or both, are generally depressed when I wish them gayest; and my solitude is commonly more strict when I wish it to be varied, by the arrival of some merry companion or other to entertain me and my friends: yet I might live at least five hundred years in this place before one quarter of the incidents happened which are related in any one of the six volumes of Tom Jones. I have not yet read the two last; but I think as you do, that no one character yet is near so striking as Adams's in the author's other composition, and the plan seems far-fetched; but in the adventures that happen, I think he produces personages but too like those one meets with in the world; and even among those people to whom he gives good characters, he shews them as in a concave glass, which discovers blemishes that would not have appeared to the common eye, and may make every modest reader fear to look in such a glass, as some do who have been beauties, and would choose to fancy themselves so still. The Beauty herself might shun it equally; for
that

that sort of glass would not flatter, and defects would appear, as there is no perfection in us mortals.—If Mr. Fielding and Mr. Hogarth could abate the vanity of the world by shewing its faults so plainly, they would do more than the greatest divines have yet been capable of: But human nature will still be the same, and would, I am afraid, furnish them, if they lived till the world ended, with such imperfect objects to represent.

I thank you, Sir, for Irene, and as much for giving me your opinion, which I look upon as a sure guide with which I may travel through it with safety and profit. I hear it is not much liked at London; but though the Public are far from being in general unjust judges, they are apt to condemn or commend too suddenly; and, if one thing displeases, to be displeased with the whole; and the same, when one thing happens to please; their praise and their condemnation being in extremes: and they often damn a play for one single fault, or extol it for a single beauty. *By D^r Johnson*

I send you a book for your bookbinder's pattern: but as to your wax, you are (for the first time in your life) a little *ungenerous* in challenging me to match its colour; you might as well bid me match the *vermeille of the rose*,
or

or the *vermeille* of one of the French *Chanoine's* cheeks, such as Boileau was so well acquainted with. Is not the wax of your creating?

There wants no novelty to make the Leasowes agreeable. If you ceased absolutely to add to it, it would still be new; Nature would furnish it with never-dying charms; but I know you cannot help assisting it, so that I shall discover some unconfessed beauty which you will seem careful to hide, when I next pay my annual visit and acknowledgments to you.—If any thing is done here, it will be owing to the advice you are so kind to give me.—I doubt whether I rightly understand in what manner you would have *the Hermitage become part of the scrubbery, by means of about three yards of scrubbery on the outside of my lime-walk?* I should be glad to make this connection; but will it not lay my garden open to the field through which passes a foot-road to Henley? and yet, according to your advice, might I not plant that straight walk, which is now gravelled, full of shrubs, and not let it lead to the Hermitage, but return in a serpentine manner one of my crooked sand-walks beyond the Ha! Ha! so as to meet the walk which is bordered by service-trees and fenced with rails, and does lead in a curve to the Hermitage; in which walk might

also be shrubs and a serpentine sand-passage? This could be done, but I question if it is your meaning. The cause of my doubt is your saying *behind* the Lime-walk; whereas I have no limes but from the Pheasant Yards to the White Gate that leads to the Field; and *behind* those limes is only the lane which is much below the garden, and is lately planted with abeles: the walk in the field which immediately leads to the Shrubbery is planted with *service-trees*. Set me right when I hear from you next.—I cannot venture to put up my pavillion this summer, unless you extend your kindness so far as to come over in the warm season for a few days, to instruct me and my workmen; for I am persuaded they will err, though Mr. Hands the Joiner will perform his part well, in laying out the ground as he has done in the wood-work; but the Masons I shall never manage, nor be able even to instruct; and as to the planting round, I think to defer that till the latter season, but in the mean time make the short Ha! Ha! on the green, and plant the two elms on each side the walk before the house-gate, which I will do.

Mr. Holyoak went last Sunday to preach for Mr. Allen, and found him surprisingly better. I will give him the pleasure of knowing

ing you enquired after him.—I wrote Mr. Hall word that you did him the same favour; and I inclose what he writes me in a postscript.

The north-east wind has prevented my walking out till this day, when a false report of its being changed hurried me out; but I had too much courage to retreat, and I do not perceive any ill effects from it.—The Spring shews at least the beauties of childhood; for there are plenty of snowdrops, primroses, polyanthuses, and even violets, which promise more sweets. I hope you will smell them before the hated Autumn robs them of their perfume.

I am

Your ever faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S. As to Mr. Hall's affair, he had a laudable ambition to have you write an inscription to perpetuate his Father's memory. You said you knew him so little, you desired I would give you some hints to guide you.; but I knew him not at all, nor ever saw him in my life. The general character I have heard, was that of an honest man, a faithful steward, and

withal knowing; so that his advice was often asked and followed with success; and he was careful of his family and prudent. More I know not; but once read a letter of his writing upon an accidental affair, which was a little intricate, and observed in it much prudence, judgment, calmness, yet not unfeeling calmness, and much delicacy of sentiment; from which letter I judged the better of his heart and head; yet it was written in the evening of his life, and when a private misfortune had ruffled him and lowered his spirits. Since that, I have only heard that he was lamented by many; and you know how much his son was affected with it; and his zeal and affection for his father makes him wish more should be said of him than barely that he lived and died, and with something more elegance than the common form of what the sexton writes on a gravestone; but he does not desire flattery or flourishes. According to this, and to obey your commands, I have wrote down a kind of specimen, which I beg you to peruse, and reject or alter, or amend, as you shall see proper. As to the first line, I am dubious if I should have it or not to begin, "Here lie," &c. which may be too common and dry; and yet the other may for
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what I know appear too flourishing. If it was to be set up in Westminster Abbey, I think I should venture it; but to the readers in Tanworth Church-yard, perhaps it will not appear that the Reverence here meant is only as to an honest man.

I can only add my excuses for pretending to put my hints into any method, which I should have left to you; but I considered the Green Book might be at a stand, whilst your thoughts were employed on this Epitaph.—Thus self-love works even] on the most *disinterested*, which I thought I was; but find myself mistaken when interest points to me a method of obtaining any of your Works; which in this case I do at the expence of my friend Mr. Hall, who will have me, instead of you, to plan his father's monument; and I am quite unequal to the task. Pray burn it or mend it; and for his sake write another, or add a few lines to this.

Pray write an answer for Thursday next.—Pity my hurry, and excuse my scrawl.—Compliments to your Brother.

Pray do not forget the Green Book.

LETTER

LETTER XXVII.

SIR,

May-day, 1749.

I HAVE no more than time to let you know that I had your book first and your letter after, very safe; and to thank you for your little sketch of alterations in my Shrubbery. In order to follow it, I have begun by taking down the styles, that no foot-road may prevent the execution of what we propose; and am ungravelling the lime-walk and laying mold on it; which is the whole that can be done till the planting season. In the mean time, I have finished my lower garden, by turning the seven grass-plats that were in the shape of Lord Mayor's Custards, into one large one; and have widened the gravel-walk round from five feet and a half to twelve feet and a half broad. As to the court, the pallisades are removed, the end-walls built, the turf taken away, the slopes made more gentle, the pillars removed to the extremities of the pallisades, and the sun-dial is set in the middle, and the court levelled, raised, and gravelled; the two gates are making. The upper garden is ungravelled, and

is

is making into a bowling-green; the pavillion will be set up next, and the white pales taken away from the wall-side of the stable-court to enlarge that in autumn: the way to the Coppice will be altered according to your directions; and I hope then you will be so kind as to assist me; for it is impossible for you at a distance to judge so well as on the place.—I do not know if you would have the little gates left or no at each end of the Service Walk, though they are to be hid with shrubs. I propose coming into the Coppice from the Service-Walk at the farther end between the Chairs that overlook the Pit, and the farther corner of the Wood beyond what answers to the top of the Hermitage Pit.

I wish for Mr. Hall's sake you would make a new Epitaph; for mine is scarcely worth your retouching. There is one line in particular I do not like: I think it is,

“As a friendly Counsellor he gain'd Affection.”

The word *Esteem* I believe is not used in the whole; though I really forget: but in short, I like none of that line; and very little of any part of the thing.

Mr. Williams has been darkening the ground of his performance in my library, so that I must

must scrawl this over in a strange manner, to give him time to return home. Excuse me therefore, and believe me to be

Your ever obliged, humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER XXVIII.

Barrells, Sunday, June 4th, 1749.

SIR,

From my Chimney-corner.

YOUR approbation rewards amply the pains I have taken lately in following my workmen, and adds a relish to the pleasure I take in endeavouring to improve the environs of my cottage. My pavilion is finished all to tiling and flooring. I believe I shall be obliged to pen it in with pales to keep off beasts of all kinds; those in human shape chiefly: but the fence will be hid in time with a hedge, and the building shaded behind with trees, and on the sides by shrubs. The Ha! Ha! is digging.—The court has been honoured with Mrs. Kendall's coach and six, which found room sufficient.

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The bowling-green begins to look tolerably green since this late rain, which I hope will join the turfs perfectly. The Abele Walk, and that which was gravel, will be filled in the planting season, and the Serpentine's altered to lead to the Coppice; but the manner of it I shall leave to your direction, hoping to see you long before that time here, especially as Mr. Dolman does me the favour to propose making me a visit whilst my Shrubbery is in beauty; which ought to be now: but it is still winter here! It is true, there are various shrubs well blown, but it is so cold and wet, one cannot walk to see them; and on the dry days the winds are so high, that it is equally disagreeable, and the flowers droop towards the ground when scarcely full blown.—You seem destined never to see the embroidery Nature bestows upon my Coppice in Spring; where we had even this year great variety of cowslips, primroses, ragged-robins, wild hyacinths both white and blue, violets, &c. &c. In the Shrubbery, I think the finest ornament is the large bushes of Whitsun-roses, which are still in blow, and give one an idea of snow-balls this cold weather. The lilac is already over, and has given place to the syringa; of which I have enough to perfume the place with the help of the sweet-briar;

briar; and several of my roses are in blow. If this and the next week should prove more like summer than the last, I shall wish you and Mr. Dolman would come.—Mrs. Reynalds from Gloucestershire is now with me; and desires her compliments to you, and will be glad to see you here. Her husband is to come on Tuesday to stay here the rest of this week. She will stay here during the next week also; but the week after that, I expect Mrs. Meredith from London; and how many she may bring with her I cannot tell.—Outing will either be at Jacky Reynalds's next week, and come here at your call; or else he will come here with Mrs. Meredith for a few days; and go from hence to Jacky Reynalds's, where he will be all summer; except when he is here.—Parson Allen is well, and will meet you at any time.—Mr. Hall is happy in the hopes you give of touching the Epitaph; and I am proud that you think it worth your attention enough to mend some parts of it.—I am glad your bookseller has improved upon mine. In France, when they gild the edges, (which they do better than us) they marble that gilding with faint colours, which looks very pretty.—Those persons who cannot find pleasure in trifles, are generally wise in their own opinions, and fools in the

opinion of the wise, as they neglect the opportunities of amusement, without which the rugged road of life would be insupportably tedious. I think the French are the best philosophers, who make the most they can of the pleasures, and the least they can of the pains of life; and are ever strewing flowers among the thorns all mortals are obliged to walk through; whereas, by much reflection, the English contrive to see and feel the thorns double, and never see the flowers at all, but to despise them; expecting their happiness from things more solid and durable, as they imagine: but how seldom do they find them! One meets indeed with disappointments in trifles; but they are easier borne: yet I confess I was much concerned last week at the disaster which beset my poultry, and found myself punished for my presumption in daring all my neighbours to produce such fine turkies as mine, of which I had thirty-seven, and six of them were fit to eat; whereas a polecat fetched away twenty in one night, and eight at three in the afternoon next day, and sucked the eggs of the turkies, ducks, and chickens, and (what vexed me more upon your account) of the Guinea Hens.

Mr. Hall tells me that Lord Archer asked him at London, ten days ago, (though he was

but an hour with him) what you and I thought of his obelisk?—My bricklayer promises to alter the Niches this week. My stone-mason mistook the breadth of the two steps up to the pavilion exactly half, so that I have been obliged to have them pieced, which is ugly.—Mr. Williams has darkened the ground of the chimney-piece, but cannot alter the shades without new doing the whole.—I keep Langley's Book till you come to pick out some serpentine-walks. I wish his ideas had been more confined, or my territories less so. Is it not the same Langley who published very pretty Designs for Pavement? Mr. Belfon got some executed with a shade of black, white, and brown small pebbles.—The Duchess of Somerset has a floor to a pavilion in all coloured small pebbles, placed so as to look like a Persian carpet.—Somebody in Hampshire has a dead fawn or deer represented in pebbles at the door of a grotto in a park; but Langley's are only regular geometrical figures.

The thunder interrupts me, and it is church-time; so I hasten to release you. I hope you will answer this by word of mouth, and believe me to be, Sir,

Your ever faithful servant,

H 3

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I send one of your books.—As the prisoners in gaol repeat “Pray remember the poor;” so I do “Pray remember the Green Book.” — Compliments to your Brother, and your friends at Broom.

L E T T E R XXIX.

Barrells, June 24th, 1749, past Eleven at Night.
SIR,

I OUGHT to have thanked you sooner for yours, of the 3d, which, as I suppose, crossed mine upon the road: but in mine I told you I hoped for your answer, by word of mouth, to view my Shrubbery with Mr. Dolman; after which ensued the most stormy weather I ever knew, which destroyed all my *Summer* schemes, and left me no comfort but the hopes of converting you to my opinion of giving to *Autumn* the preference over Summer.—As to *Spring*, the beauties of it are entirely banished our hemisphere; and you will be obliged to owe to my favourite season every ray of sun unshaded by a cloud, or impending shower, that you have enjoyed this season. That is also a season which gives me one annual day

day of pleasure at least, as it invites me to the Leafowes, or rather, as I naturally point to it, and you are so kind to receive me, and give the Nereids (your Maids of Honour) orders to do it in the most elegant manner; and no commands were ever better obeyed. I have no such servants as those aquatic nymphs; and even my terrestrial slaves scorn to obey me: nay, I fear I am not even heard by the ærial beings, since they so seldom favour me with a smile. The rains have made my roses droop before their time; but several sorts have made their appearance, and have died in their prime: others are coming on; but I fear my Shrubbery must lose more than it is possible to gain by the ensuing season, however fine the weather may be.

I have been obliged to put off the visit designed me by Mrs. Meredith and two of her daughters next week, and our friend Outing with them, because I expect my own daughter and Mr. Wymondesfold (her husband), and do not know but their attendants may be numerous; and my house is not adapted to receive numbers of people. It is true, one might be supposed to make free with a daughter; but my case is peculiar. She is now nineteen years old, and I never lay under the same roof with

her since she was only six; and her husband I never saw in my life, and have only heard that he is an exceeding good-natured man, and have seen that he writes very sensible letters to me; but further of his character I do not know. He is used to very fine seats, &c. of his father's, and here he will meet a cottage in comparison. What stay they make I know not; but will acquaint you when I know; hoping then for your company, Mr. Dolman's, and Outing's.—Mrs. Reynolds spent a fortnight with me, and flattered herself you would come at the same time. *Jacky* was part of that time here.

I had a letter last post from the Duchess of Somerset, which being less than usual in the rural style, I should not send you, but that I think you will like the design she mentions of a stove in the Chapel; so I send her letter, which you will return.—Twenty or thirty thousand pounds laid out at Northumberland House, will be a kind of Roman vanity, and contribute to the beauty of that part of the city of London, and to the conveniency of the populace in particular, if the Strand is widened.

I saw to-day in the London Evening Post a letter, which reflects upon my Brother B——ke,

in

in regard to Mr. P~~o~~pe's treachery to him; in which the blame seems to be thrown from him upon my Brother. I have not yet seen any one thing more that has been published concerning it, except a Preface in a Magazine in his favour, the truth of which I could attest; and have often wondered he could so long stifle the abominable usage he met with from P~~o~~pe in printing his Work, which he had intrusted to him to review, intending that it should not be published till after his own death. The letters between P~~o~~pe and the Printer, bargaining for the price, were found by Lord Marchmont, whose business it was, by P~~o~~pe's last *Will*, to look over his papers jointly with Lord Bolingbroke: but as to the subject of the book, I know nothing of it; nor is that to the purpose, as to P~~o~~pe's baseness to the best of friends; without whom he had never shone in the Essay on Man.

I like extremely your Weekly Verses, and should value greatly a collection of them. Pray favour me once a week with the lines of the day.—As to the preservation of your flowers, I fear those you sent me will not keep the people that read them from gathering as many as usual, unless it should make them dread the resentment of Fairies and *Hobgoblins*, which undoubtedly

undoubtedly they have formed a perfect notion of, though your reasoning and your lines will not be understood by them; but if you once persuade them you can conjure up spirits by your pen, I think you may be secure in your grott from all intruders, and see your Shrubbery prosper unmolested.

Pardon me for differing with you in opinion. You are not the idle man of the creation. You may be busied to the benefit of society without stirring from your seat, as much as the mischievous man with seeming idleness may be busied in the destruction of it. You give innocent pleasure to yourself, and instruction as well as pleasure to others, by the amusements you follow. Your pen, your pencil, your taste, and your sincere unartful conduct in life (which are the things that make you appear idle) give such an example, as it were to be wished might be more generally followed—few have the capacity, fewer have the honesty to spend their time so usefully, as well as unblameably.

Your little Gothic Bench I admire. I hope you will execute it at the low price you mention, with your own timber; and properly placed, it will be a far more perfect thing than

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our famous restorer of the Gothic style in building (Mr. Miller) has yet given us.

I am to dine at Lord Archer's next Tuesday, when I shall see the Obelisk, and be a better judge how it appears from the saloon it is seen from: Mr. Hall, you know, thinks it appears from thence too taper. Talking of Mr. Hall, I must tell you that he desires his best compliments, best thanks, &c. &c. and acknowledges he ought to have wrote to you, and would do it now, but he has been, and still is, very much out of order. He rode in one fortnight seven or eight hundred miles; to Bath one day; to London two days after; lay there but one night, and away to Rugby; upon several Rosinantes who plunged him in the waters or on the sharp stones: his view was a good living: he was the ninth competitor, and since that has two more that follow him in their hopes or pretences. I do not find it is decided who shall have it; but one thing is certain, that riding so hard, and in bad roads and bad weather, heated his blood, threw him into a high fever, and he is now moving about in a more limited sphere, but clogged with half a fever at least. In this condition he was unable to consider of the lines you were so kind to send; but just read the
three

three Epitaphs over, commended in general, and was thankful for your kind attention, then retired to his physic, &c. hoping to regain more equal spirits than his are at present, and a more *steady* pulse, which I tell him may make his head more *steady*; and he hopes as much, that he may be able to talk over this little affair with you, Sir, and me at Barrells. If his pursuit after *trash* (which he himself despises) should cause him very ill health, how might you hug yourself in your idleness!—But to return to his Father's Epitaph, (though I think it would be our best way to make his first) I am persuaded I have wrote what wants much amendment; and shews your *hesitations* (as you politely call them) to be very just. As to the second line, I believe Mr. John Hall may afford a better cadence; but I rather thought the simple name (as you do) more elegant; and I find my Brother Bolingbroke's Epitaph for Daniel Pulteney is the same in that particular, there being neither *Mr.* nor *Esquire*. In the same Epitaph is also

“ The Loss of so much Private Virtue

“ Is a Public Calamity.”

Your word *Extensive*, substituted in the place
of

of *Large*, is certainly better. I believe the jingle of *Large* and *Small* caught me; and I also believe "*renders his death*" would be better: but whether so much exactness in grammar is expected in this kind of writing as in plain prose, you are the best judge. The word *Example*, in the 13th line, was *Experience* in the copy I kept at home, and was a slip of my pen in transcribing. *Nature* and *Judgment* may not be altogether proper to be contradistinguished; but I do not know how to mend it to please me: *Temper* is not more to be distinguished from *Nature*; and in short, these three lines puzzle me. *Diffused* may be put to advantage, I think, (as you observe) instead of *Dispersed*, in the fourteenth line. *Skill* and *Prudence*, as you say, may be understood as not enough opposite, though I think they are a good deal so:—might not one say

"Skill equal to his disinterested Fidelity."

In the nineteenth line, *Esteem* instead of *Respect*, we both agree in. I do not well know as to the doubt you make, whether they are peculiar enough to each, but am again at a stand for words to change those for. As to the twentieth, twenty-first, and twenty-second lines, Mr. Hall desired me, soon after I sent you the
copy,

copy, to leave them out entirely. I should choose to leave out, as you observe, "*The Rich blest'd*:" might it not be

The Poor blest, the Oppressor fear'd him ;
Nor did those who envy'd presume to censure his Reputation :

or else,

Nor did Envy's Breath presume to censure his Reputation.

Because if I said, *those who envy'd*, it might imply that somebody did ; which I do not know. *Zeal* being placed after *Affection*, is certainly better, for the reason you observe ; and must be so, if used at all. But upon the whole, I would have Mr. Hall take one of the three copies entire ; as you was so kind to send ; and I suppose he will, when he is restored to his health, sense, and judgment ; before which, or then at least, I hope we shall talk it over in one of my cells, or under my new pavilion, which he calls *too low*. If it had been higher, it must have been in proportion too broad for the walk, and must have cost me a great deal by a lead covering ; and my house would have appeared lower than my pavilion. It is, to be sure, small, but the plan in the book is not above seven inches deeper, and the front is the same length

LETTERS. 111

length as in the book.—I keep your Book of Serpentine; for I long for your contriving the entrance into my grotto. In the mean time, I keep off all the intruders from their old way to Henley, and have given them a better, which shuts their mouths; and none clamber over the hedges but those who are not yet apprized of the alteration. Sir Robert Cocks has as many hundred abeles ready for me as I can wish, against the busy month of October next.

It is just come into my mind, Sir, that you love good writing, good impressions to seals, and all other proper decorations of a letter: I ought therefore to secrete mine, and neither send it, nor ever let you know that I was capable of intending to send such a scrawl: but I consider *this* must go or none; for I never made a copy of a letter in my life, and my hand and pen being upon the gallop, will stumble sometimes. If this excuse will not do, you shall have the next as *prim* as Lord S—d's cravat (so celebrated); but it will not be half a quarter so long. Let me know your taste against the next, and believe that (though I scrawl it over in a slovenly manner) my paper conveys the most friendly sentiments, and those of esteem and value, which I must have

112 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

have whilst I live for you, Sir, who deserve them so well.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R XXX.

SIR,

Sunday, August 26th, 1749.

AS I believe you sincere in the impatience you express to visit me at Barrells, I hope you will be so just as to believe me equally impatient to receive you here, and doubly disappointed that a continuation of your disorder should occasion our not meeting at the times appointed.—For God's sake, do not venture a journey too soon; yet come as soon as you can. The nature of your illness gives me pain; your frequent relapses increase it; but the strength of your constitution, the opinion of your faithful servant Tom, and the spirit I perceive in your letters, give me pleasure, and encourage me to hope a speedy as well as certain cure; and consequently that the next week will be as favourable to me as I imagined, and was persuaded *this* would have been.

How pleased should I be if I could help you to a proper Motto for your Gothic Building, which even Spenser has denied you in your present search! You could easily supply his deficiency, and I dare say you would do it to advantage in his own language. You have shewn yourself capable of *that* already: so, without putting him or me to the blush, make an *old* English Motto as you have made a Gothic Building, and you will be approved by the moderns, and envied by the ancients.

As to the lines you desire me to write in my own hand upon one of your skreens, I am ready to do it; for I fear not the censure of those who may read them, let the multitude be ever so great, since you have read them, and have not disapproved: but I never yet was so puzzled in making my judgment and yours tally. I conceive them to be *bad*, but

I

you

114 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

you say they are *good*; therefore I *err*, and perhaps I *err* in saying that the fourth line, filled with monosyllables, is an exceeding bad one. I shall submit the moment you speak; but in the mean time imagine, that

"Preserving still their Parents Beauteous Face,"

might be as well as what I wrote before, if not better. All I wish about it is, that you will believe me sincere, even in rhyme; and that I long for an opportunity of scrawling over your seat at the Leasowes with my pencil, and of shewing you (as well as Mr. and Miss Dolman, and Mr. Joseph Shenstone) at Barrells, that I am, *sans cérémonie*, but with the greater truth,

Yours sincerely,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S. I should not be grateful for the civilities I received from my Lord Dudley, particularly for his invitation to me to lie at the Grange when you was ill, and his invitation to me to dine there when you was well again; if I neglected sending my compliments to him: and hope you will permit me to do so here.

I saw Mr. Hall and Mr. Allen last night,
who

who enquired after you. I heard the former preach to-day, but did not speak to him; so could not make your compliments.

LETTER XXXI.

Barrells, August 29th, 1749.
Tuesday Night.

SIR,

YESTERDAY and To-day have been spent by Mr. Outing and myself in looking out to spy you coming towards us: but we looked in vain; and our flattering hopes begin to give place to unwelcome despair, which is aggravated by the apprehensions of a fresh relapse of your illness, and is the cause of my sending a servant to enquire after your health; of which I hope to hear a good account; but rather wish to see it in your person, and to hear it from your own mouth.

Mr. Hall came yesterday in the evening to kiss your hands, but found Outing and me lamenting your absence; one seated on a turf, the other on a stone at the Hermitess's door, who has acquired a new bed, which may hold not only you, if your colic should oblige

116 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

you to lie down, but also all the agreeable company I hope to see with you. It is the Bed of Ware, the vulgar say: our friend Outing says it is only a sociable bed for two hermits and two hermitesses: but I am not in the humour to joke whilst I suppose you ill. Relieve me pray from my pain, and believe me to be faithfully and inviolably

Your most obliged

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Compliments from us to Mr. Joseph Shennstone, and Mr. and Miss Dolman.

Mr. John Reynalds was coming here from Aston to meet you, but being disabled by a fall from his horse, hopes (as he writes word to Outing) to see you there.

P. S. I send you (as a sick man) six Guinea-hen's eggs for your supper, out of about as many more which I could have sent you, and would, but that the learned assure me they will come to nothing if set so late in the year; whereas the few remaining in the nest may entice the hen to lay more for your suppers at Barrells.—For want of a proper place for my poultry, or rather for want of a careful

Mrs.

LETTERS.

117

Mrs. Arnold, I have reared but one single Guinea-chick this year.—If I had such a command of corn and of water as you have, I should be apt to fall into the expence of a Ménagerie; and as well as I love pine-apples, would prefer it to a hot-house.

I beg my humble service to Lord Dudley, and Mr. Outing his respects.

LETTER XXXII.

SIR,

Barrells, September 8th, 1749.

I AM doubtful whether I should write to you now, as I may expect you are upon the road hither; for Litchfield Races have, as I imagine, left Mr. Dolman at liberty ere this; and your disorder has I hope left you free to pursue your inclinations, which Mr. Outing and I are vain enough to believe would lead you hither. If he denied it, he would not gain credit, as all his friends well know he has put off other journies upon that account; and if I denied it, I am sure I should be unjust to you, who shew so much partial fa-

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your

your to me and my habitation. This fact therefore being laid down as certain, joined to your not having wrote on Saturday last, as you promised, creates in me some fears, lest your illness should have returned upon you, or not have left you long enough for you to trust yourself from home. If this should be the case, I shall be doubly disappointed: yet I cannot blame you for choosing to be in your own house, when confined to a house, and on your own bed, when constrained to lay on one at hours when one most wishes and most expects to be able to converse with one's friends, viz. after meals, which are the most sociable hours in life, when one is blest with friends and health to enjoy them. But, Sir, since blankets and white-wine-
 they have not cured you under the care of physicians, I ought not to suppose I could perform that wished-for task; and yet I will answer for it, that were you at Barrells, you would not be tempted to transgress the rules prescribed by those physicians, no more than you would be by the Persian Rice and Sherbet you mention; and that might be one step towards a cure. You would find no costly viands here; and as for liberty, which you say you must have to eat what you have *not* a
 mind

mind to, you should have it; but as for liberty to eat what you *have* a mind to, you should *not* have it: so pray do not think when you come here, that your steps

“ ——— to the Huxter’s fav’ry Cottage tend;”

for were I the uncontrouled dame that awed you with birchien power, you should not find that I greeted you with such cates, as, by indulging your taste, might pamper your illness; nor should you walk out in unwholesome fogs or dews, nor have I power to walk you round the margin of brooks and fountains if I would: so that, in short, you would be here as insipidly safe as ever Valetudinarian was in the closest retreat.

The lines you sent me I like greatly; but since Mr. Lyttelton objects to the two first lines of the last stanza, and that you do not seem much pleased with them, what if you were to write on your Gothic Seat only the two first stanzas, which are unexceptionable? for though the “*Beechen Bowl*,” &c. is well expressed, and would be vastly pretty in some other place, I question if it is necessary here: and the threat (if I may so call it) in the last stanza, is perhaps less necessary; as any thing like threatening is what the simplicity of a

rural swain avoids ; which character you seem to assume in the inscription. I had the pleasure to read the other inscription in one of your moss-seats, and have it also by me in a former letter of yours.—I see you have put *Harm betide* instead of *Ill betide* : the difference is of small consequence ; yet I am unwilling to give up the first (*Ill betide*). If you have a mind for a little more criticism from such a No-Critic as myself, I think *Sportive* Fawns may supply the place of *Rural* Fawns, as they were jocular Deities. You have put *Fringed* Cell instead of *Mossy* Cell ; which Oberon at first called it ; but I love *Mossy* still ; so attached am I to the first of your Editions.

That many parts of your Farm were extravagantly commended by Mr. Lyttelton, Miller, &c. I do not wonder at, though I cannot properly term it *Extravagantly*, because it was so justly and reasonably : and as to the Scape-Goat, (as you call your Summer-house) it has now some merit, and had all the merit you required of it at the time you built it ; but I confess what you have done since must degrade it : yet I would not have it quite disregarded, and rather wish it could be turned to some useful ornament.—Have you a dove-house ? The nearness of the water would please

please the pigeons ; and the sight of them would please you : but let the building become what it will, if it remains there, I would have it change its colour from red to white.—Talking of changing, I must tell you of my changes at this cottage, Mr. Outing has put *O Venus Regina Gnidi* in the new Pavilion over Venus's Shrine, opposite my house, instead of over the Summer-house door, where it was ; from which Summer-house I have banished the two motto's on the side-doors, as you advised. The Piping Fawn is retired from the front of the Aviary to his post in the Wood, where he stands in the Double Oak, in lieu of the motto *Huc ades, &c.* which being taken down, *Habitâ-runt Dii quoque Sybas* is to supply its place.—I have found a kind of natural arbor in the Coppice, with an oak in it, under which I have a mind to raise a bank of turf and put my Tapping Fawn upon it to dance, with

Gaudet invisam pepulisse fossor

Ter pede terram

for a motto. Query, (says Mr. Outing) Whether a Fawn may be supposed to be a Ditcher ? —I think to put over my Aviary

“ Idle Musicians of the Spring,

“ Whose only Care's to love and sing.”

Which

Which lines are Lord Roscommon's, and are, I think, more strictly true of my birds incaged, than of the wild ones who have employment enough to seek food for themselves and their young.—Pray let me know how you make your *Moss-Seats*; for I want some such greatly in my Coppice.

I beg my compliments to Lord Dudley and Mr. and Miss Dolman. Mr. Outing desires his to you and them, and to Mr. Joseph Shentstone; who is, I hope, persuaded of my regard for him, and that you are as well assured of my being,

Sir,

With the strictest truth,

Your most obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Last Friday Sir Edward Boughton sent his steward for Mr. Hall to go and receive his Presentation to the Living of Harborough; which he did, and is now gone for institution to the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIII.

SIR,

Barrells, September 11th, 1749.

THIS is Monday; and on Saturday last I wrote you a letter of great length, which I sent to Henley to be conveyed to the Birmingham Post-Office, directed to you, to be left there; but finding your illness continues, and not having heard from you since the letter in which you promised to write to me last Saturday was sevensnight, I cannot be easy without a more particular enquiry concerning your health. This is the only subject of my present message and letter. The last letter was a medley, which if you are ill, will tire you to read, and will tire you more to answer; so I leave you free to make yourself easy about that, only beg you will let Mr. Outing and me know how you do. As to myself, I expected to have gone to London this week, but my scheme is altered; nor would I have gone if you had sent me word you would come. As to Mr. Outing, he has waited till now, and last night fixed upon Thursday for his departure, despairing of seeing

ing you; and Mrs. Meredith writes me word she will come with her family next week: but if my servant finds you as well as I wish you, I hope still to see you and Mr. Dolman, &c. this week, and will endeavour to prevail with Mr. Outing to disappoint Mr. Reynalds once more, and defer his journey till the beginning of the next; but he says I answer for more than is possible for him to perform; and adds, that he would have gone to the Leaflowes, had he not expected you here daily. Such are the aggravating circumstances of your disorder, which, without such aggravations, would have given more than sufficient pain to your friends; of which number I hope you will believe me none of the least zealous; for I am,

Sir,

Most sincerely,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH,

We desire (that is Mr. Outing and I) many compliments to your Brother and your friends at Broom, as well as to Lord Dudley; and Mr. Hall desired I would give his to you when I wrote next.

Pray

LETTERS.

125

Pray let somebody tell my servant how your little Moss-Seats are made that are in the Grove.

LETTER XXXIV.

Barrells, Wednesday, September 20th, 1749.

SIR,

COULD I suppose that you laid any stress upon ceremonial, which is only the shadow of friendship, where you are secure of its substance, I would make you many apologies for sending this letter by the post, which I ought to have sent to the Leasowes on Monday by a servant, who should also have gone to Broom to enquire how all the agreeable company that left Barrells on Sunday got to their respective houses. The omission of these civilities I confess, and hope to be absolved when you consider that they do not proceed from an ungrateful mind. I could not have performed them without a good deal of inconvenience to myself; and I know they could not be of any consequence to you: but you may be assured, that your obliging visit gave
me

me much pleasure, and its short duration much regret, however wanting I may be in expressing it.

Mr. Outing left me yesterday morning, much lamenting that he did not go the day before, when he seemed to grudge every ray of sun that was seen at Barrells, and to dread every drop of rain that might fall the next day on the road to Aston. His fears should have made him consult some skillful almanack-maker; but trusting to his own observations, I believe he met with a little rain, which (however lightly it might sprinkle him) would I dare say make him curse the *unjoyous* weather, and call himself an *unfortunate* hero more than once.

I see in the news-paper an advertisement of a Poem, dedicated to the Duchess of Somerset, about Family Prayer, by one who seems to be a great admirer of Mr. Hervey. I should imagine it to be by the Chaplain she talks of in her letter; but do not know.

The first thing I did on Monday was to order the Ha! Ha! to be lowered two bricks; but found it not necessary to lower it even one; for the paper you stuck up is seen from the Hall-Door by lowering the earth a considerable

able length of way. So much higher was it than the Ha! Ha! that it was *that* which obstructed the view totally, and not the wall. I also staked out the ground for the sweep of pallisadoes and trees at the hither end of the Long Walk, and I banished the auricula-pots from the Library-Window; and yesterday I wrote to bespeak the pediment for the Pavillion. More I could not do in this short time; but will have regard to your advice about the Shrubbery.

Should you, if you chose to erect in my Coppice an urn to the memory of a friend, place it in one of the corners where the trees seem to form an arbour, or in the Middle-Walk, from whence you now see Claverden? As the latter place is to be filled with trees, it might be perceived through them perhaps to some advantage from the Shrubbery and Summer-house; but if so, it would require to be higher than in the remote parts of the Wood. How high should you like the pedestal? and how high the urn in either place?

I hope to hear your colic is become a stranger to you, and that you will not provoke it by nuts, &c. and I wish all your improvements may prosper, and gratify your own taste,
which

128 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

which is so pleasing to others, and which affords particular pleasure to,

Sir,

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

If Miss Dolman has left the Leasowes, pray be so kind as to convey the inclosed card to Broom.

L E T T E R XXXV.

SIR,

Tuesday, October 10th.

AS I am at present in as languid (though not in so painful) a condition as you have lately been, I might have been excused by you, had I not wrote till I found myself better; but I should not be excused by myself. My own reproaches would be continual torments to me, did I not take the earliest opportunity of returning thanks for the Ode you sent me, and for the unmerited compliment it makes to me, and to my little retreat. Were

strict

strict truth as necessary to poetry as it is to history, you would be guilty of a great fault in placing the scene here, where the Muses never come, except when you bring them. But as poetical licences are allowable, this error may be so too: and I am persuaded no other can be found in your plan; nor do I believe that even *you* can find any thing in the composition to amend, and yet I will not give a copy till you permit me, because I would not willingly disobey any of your commands.—Besides the pleasure your letter and verses afford me in reading, and the pride they indulge in making me the subject of them, they give me a third satisfaction, which exceeds the others, and that is, the looking upon them as proofs of your late disorder having quite left you: which I think I may do; for illness would disable your genius from working with that vigour one may observe in these productions of it. And indeed the very impressions which bodily pain commonly leaves, would be yet too recent in a vulgar mind to allow it the free use of its faculties: but yours is superior to others, even when it is most oppressed.

Monday, 16th.

I was too much out of order to continue my letter till to-day; but am now so much

K

better,

better, that I proceed to tell you that my only architect (who is a joiner at Warwick) happens to be very ill, so that the pediment is not finished: perhaps not begun. I have ordered him to make it low, and agreeable to the Doric order, as the pillars of the Temple are. I mentioned three urns: he talks of three figures. I do not know if three balls would not be as well. Lord Burlington uses them a good deal.—When I have an opportunity, I will enquire of the knowing which are the proper books of Architecture for your use; and in the mean time will send you the only one I have that teaches the rudiments of that science. * Worse print or worse paper you never saw! It cost me five shillings at one of Osborne's sales, thirteen years ago. Perhaps you will get a better printed one of the kind, if you like this upon looking it over.—As to the urn for Mr. Somerville, he has wrote me the price of a plain one in wood, and also in Warwick stone; but it is only twenty inches high at that price: which I suppose is not half high enough; and he sends a frightful common pedestal in the inclosed draught.—I have a fancy for an urn on a round altar, and have scrawled out such a thing myself, and sent it to Mr. Williams to put in oil, and

*Mr. Mer
Roy
not
his wife
Martha
of the*

to paint green trees round, that I may guess at the effect it will have. The urn I drew from a little pair the Duchess of Somerset turned for me in wood, from an antique urn the Countess of Pomfret brought her from Italy. It has no cover. You will see how it is when Williams sends it back. In the mean time, pray think of a place to set the urn in; for I cannot please myself about it.

Just at this place of my letter I am interrupted by one from Miss Patty Meredith, to desire I will send four of my horses to join two of Mrs. Meredith's to bring them hither from Wolfeley-Bridge on Friday next the 20th; so I will not send this epistle till they come, choosing to wait, in order to make it more worth your reading, by sending you Miss Patty's opinion, and Miss Harriot's, about placing the urn.

I will only add here, that I am sorry for the usage you have met with from your Parson: but hope your path goes on, and could wish it had been where you proposed, in defiance of ecclesiastical spite; but since that is impracticable, at least flatter myself that you will disappoint his malicious intent, by making a path on your own land equally pretty, and out of the reach of their powers, who endeavoured to prevent the

*M. Meredith was da: K² of Mr Cholmondeley of
Royal (by an Aunt of L^d Luxborough) & wife
was the son of J^r W^m M. who died in his
lifetime 1744
married mar the Hon^{ble} Frederick Lane second
of the Earl of Darlington*

dictates of your taste. Place it ever so far from them, it is possible their envy may reach it, and trace it to its full extent: but what of that, if they cannot molest it otherwise? And I will fancy you can have one that will even exceed in beauty that which you first thought of.

Wednesday, October 25th.

By various accidents I have waited in vain for Mrs. Meredith till this day, and have not yet had time to write, nor weather to seek for situations in the Coppice.

Friday, 27th.

To-morrow morning a sketch of Miss Patty's will go to the Leasowes, in hopes of saving the town of Birmingham; but it is impossible to find time to write a line with it.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

SIR,

November 1st, 1749.

PRAY read the inclosed letter first.—I hope you received a Sketch on Saturday.—This beginning will seem abrupt: more so than Mr. Whistler's! but my reason for it

is

is the same as his. If he is pardoned after a silence of six months, perhaps I may receive the same favour. My silence was not of such long duration. My crime was not so great, because it did not deprive you of so much pleasure; and my contrition is as great as his can be: and if you will believe me, I blush as much as he could do; and neither of us can express *that* upon paper; therefore, I hope you will believe us both, and restore me as well as Mr. Whistler to your friendship. My pleading for him is an act of supererogation, as he has pleaded so much better for himself: and yet I have no other way of shewing my gratitude for his mention of me. How proud should I be of what he says of me, were I not at the same time humbled, by knowing my merit cannot have attracted his applause, since he never was in my company! The same consideration should make me wish he never might be in it, lest he should be undeceived to my disadvantage. But upon the whole, weighing my losses and gains by the notion I have conceived of his conversation by what I have seen of his writings, I think I would venture to let him discover my ignorance, rather than be deprived of his company; which you promised last year to give me, by his accompanying you to Barrells;

where (by the way) if you please to come now, I can offer you more than I have yet been able to do; which is the conversation of Mrs. Meredith and four of her daughters.—The Yellow Room which Miss Dolman lay in, when you was last here, is empty.—I should rejoice to see you.—The month of October calls upon you to assist me in planting; and I know you would not choose to be remiss in acts of friendship. I offer you an occasion of shewing yours; and unless you go to London to meet Mr. Whistler, I think I may expect you will do me this favour before the new moon decays. I would fain endeavour to wipe off the prejudice you have taken against Autumn; and if these four young ladies do not assist me, I fear I shall never meet with success; nor can any thing be more likely to enliven the melancholy aspect you dread when days grow short and leaves turn yellow.

We have searched every corner of the Cop-pice, and can find no oak-tree favourable to our design, unless it is the great double oak, within which Outing placed the Piping Fawn. The tree is unexceptionable for that use; but the situation you will think, I dare say, too much exposed, especially as the entrance is so very near from the Abele Walks: if that can
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be obviated, perhaps thickening that part with trees and ever-greens may render it more proper: if not, Miss Harriot, nor Miss Patty, nor I, can think of no place but the brink of the Pit, a little below which stands an oak, that spreads a good deal over it; against which oak Miss Patty, in the inclosed Sketch, proposes to set the urn and altar, and to shade it round with yews, laurels, &c. and give up the rest of the Pit to the open field, and also to plant the Sand Walk that now leads into the Coppice and up to the Two Chairs, full of trees, and let the way be a narrow serpentine path through it, backward from the Pit, leading into the inward part of the Coppice; on the right side of which is an old stump of oak, which may make a proper back to a root-seat, from whence you will view the urn in a direct line fronting so as to be able to read the inscription.—Let us know if you conceive my meaning and Miss Patty's Drawing; and whether our idea is likely to appear well when put in practice.

I received two days ago, Mr. Williams's *Sketch*, as he calls it, though he has made it a real Picture from my Sketch, and has made the pedestal square instead of round, saying it is most proper as the urn is round: his paint-

ing has no regard to situation.—The steps in Miss Patty's Sketch are, if you remember, leading into the Pit from a corner over against the great oak, and terminate by some willows.

Miss Harriot says,—Query. Would it be amiss, instead of planting the Sand-Walk, to throw the earth down so as to make it a turfed slope from the Coppice, instead of a perpendicular side of a Pit as it now is? and would it not help to take off the ugly look of a marle-pit which it now has?

Miss Patty is amusing herself in copying Watts, and I in being a thief, which she complains the more of, as the boy she was drawing is not finished; but I will inclose it in spite of her, because I am

Your faithful friend

and humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH,

P. S. I sent your letter to Outing in one of my own, but no answer.

Mr. Hall desires his best compliments, and sets out for Oxford and London next Monday.—As I am in a stealing humour, I have stole the original and only copy of his Assize Sermon to send you, because I heard you say
you

you wanted to see it. Pray send it back, for he absolutely forbade my shewing it, as not deeming it worthy. I do not think my disobedience is a breach of friendship, because I like the sermon,

Compliments to your Brother, to Lord Dudley, and to Mr. and Miss Dolman.—Permit my servant to stay till morning.—Mrs. and Miss Merediths are obliged by your mention of them, and desire compliments to you.

I am sorry old *Emma* is deprived of the pleasure of conveying this packet. It is large enough, if its merit was judged by its size, to save forty such towns as Birmingham.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

SIR,

Wednesday, November 8th, 1749.

I HAVE heard of giving one guinea to a musician to play, and ten to leave off. Thus are you, I believe, by this time inclinable to reward old *Emma*, and to dismiss her from the office of postwoman. For her sake I ought to write seldomer, unless I could make my letters such as could render her welcome

welcome when she presents you with the large packets she finds at Birmingham from Barrells.—What occasions my troubling you again so soon is, that Mrs. Meredith and her daughters leave me the beginning of next week, and I should be glad to know before that, what size you would choose the urn and pedestal should be of: for as to the lesser ones at Hagley, you do not mention their dimension; and the twenty inches Mr. Hands talked of, was caused by the mistake of a figure in my letter. The little nook which you have forgot, is over against you when you sit under the great double oak, and from it go down winding steps which I had cut a great while ago in the earth to lead to the bottom of the Pit, but are shaded by the trees which grow on the brink of it; and a little before you come to the bottom, there is like a narrow landing-place, where grows a short row of willows, which form a kind of little hedge at the foot of an old oak which grows on the bank, and there is the spot we proposed to set the urn. Miss Patty drew it wrong, when she made it of a line with the tree; and Miss Harriot's proposal is to slope off the bank quite from the trees on the left side the walk which now is, down to the said willows, which
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are at present four feet and a half below the edge of the bank; and I believe it will have a good effect. Miss Patty has *scrawled* (for she can do nothing well with compasses) three views of an urn, viz. one front and two end-views.—Query, Whether the harp and the reeds should be carved flat on the urn, or project as in N°. 1. and whether you like the shape; as also if this Ionic pedestal is suitable, and whether with or without the bay-wreath or the square for the inscription?—I never intended four lyres. We did intend to leave the lower part of the Pit, from the Willows downwards, perpendicular.—I am glad you like balls for the pediment. The sweep is formed by the palisades: the elms are all moved from the lawn on the south-side my house, to stop up the opening of the Coppice on the east from hence as you directed, and some limes are among them.

I thank you for sending Gibbs's book; which I will take care of, but never yet could admire his taste in Architecture. The monument for the late Duke of Newcastle gives a specimen of it; and even his genteelest things he disgraces commonly with some awkward ornament. His building at Cambridge I have seen, but never could like.—Pardon me
for

140 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

for giving my opinion, which is of no value; it cannot hurt Mr. Gibbs, nor can it be of any improvement to you. So I will leave off here, and hasten to assure you, that I am,

With perfect truth and esteem,

Your faithful and obliged servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH,

The Ladies desire their compliments, and return thanks for yours, and wish to see you here. I have hopes Outing will come too before they go.—Pray write on Saturday.

Pray give me a few English words expressive of Mr. Somervile's character; for I had only thought of putting

"Sacred to the Memory of William Somervile, Esquire."

Your Latin Motto's are, I am persuaded, very well chose. Perhaps a Lady should not put up any in an *unknown tongue*; but I have already erred that way, so may as well go on.

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LETTER XXXVIII.

Barrells, Wednesday, November 29th, 1749.

SIR,

Begun Tuesday Night, 28th.

I DO not know whether I am making reparation for my past offence, *Silence*, or committing a worse, by *Babbling*: for I not only answered your letter by your servant, but wrote again the very next day; and still upon the same subject, *Urns*. I hoped for an answer last Thursday; but not having one, I now torment you with a third epistle, which will probably draw another from you; and, was your politeness out of the question, I should expect it to be an order for me to stop my pen: I think it would be just; and as the French style (and French every thing) is fashionable, it might be allowable for you to say in that language to me, *Cela suffit*: which phrase I have often heard used by those who would be shocked to hear in rough English "Hold your tongue;" though I think *sound* makes the difference, not *sense*. Talking of that, who would have thought a pack of French strollers could ever in any shape have influenced the choosing or rejecting a Member
of

of the British Parliament? and yet the advertisements about the Westminster Election shew them to be *Personages* of Consequence.—It is it seems fact, that a pretty good set of English Actors who made an attempt to set up a stage in a province on the out-skirts of France, (where our language was a little understood) were driven off with the utmost scurrility; and yet our *Noblesse* support their strollers here; for they are, I hear, established in spite of the *fracas* made by the Gallery; being well supported by our Lords, Ladies, and still more by some of our Officers, who though they ran away from the French in Flanders, are eager to follow them here, and to pay their obsequious devoirs to the outcast of them.—What will not Englishmen now bear!

Were it permitted to find fault with M—sty, I should be angry Penlez did not receive the Royal Mercy. But on the other hand, I am pleased with the King's answer to the Duke of Newcastle, who went to his closet exulting with joy to inform him of the fortunate event of Sir Watkin's death: "I am sorry for it; (answered his M—sty) "he was a worthy man, and an open enemy." This fine answer makes one regret that his Ministers govern instead of him.—But how happens it that

Boracorn Penlez was the son of a Chymist and was executed for being concerned with others in demolishing some brothels in the Strand — it was thought a hard case as he met the mob by accident — he was murdered and the Parish of St Clement Dan

that I talk something tending towards politics to you? I do not conceive what could make it enter into my head: but when it did do so, I can easily conceive it would fly away with my pen; for so negligently as I write, the first ideas that present themselves go off to my friends, unpolished and unconnected: but to others I give only a very little *flummery*, and so conclude. This word *flummery*, you must know, Sir, means at London, *flattery* and *compliment*; and is the present reigning word among the Beaux and Belles. Pardon my telling you what your Dictionary would *not* have told you; and pardon me also for boasting of knowing something about the fashions my neighbours do not know, and which, thanks to Chance, I do know!—I hope this self-exaltation will not draw upon me the guilt of the arrogant Pharisee. My knowledge does not extend very far, as learned as I am; and yet I know that it is the fashion for every body to write a couplet to the same tune (*viz.* an old country-dance) upon whatever subject occurs to them; I should say upon whatever person, with their names to it. Lords, Gentlemen, Ladies, Flirts, Scholars, Soldiers, Divines, Masters, and Misses, are all authors upon this occasion, and also the objects of each other's satire: it makes an offensive *medley*, and might be called
and him at their own expense

called a *pot-pourri*; which is a potful of all kinds of flowers which are severally perfumes, and commonly when mixt and rotten, smell very ill. This coarse simile is yet too good for about twenty or thirty couplets I have seen, and they are all personal and foolish satire, even severally; so I will not send them: but to make amends for my grave politics, I will send you a good pretty innocent Ballad, wrote X by a Miss Jenny Hamilton, a pretty girl about town, who is going to marry *More*, the author of the Foundling, and writes word of it herself in this manner to an intimate friend in the country. It consists, as you will find, of puns (or as the French properly call it, *Jeu de mots*) upon his name; and though I never was a lover of puns, I do not dislike the natural sprightly turn of these; and I hope they will amuse you a few moments, for the reason you quote from Cibber (himself!) "That small matters amuse in the country." The truth of which most people have felt, or are unfeeling and unhappy.

As to myself, I have strayed three days of the last week in the woods, or to be less poetical, I have stood from Eleven to Five each day, in the lower part of my Long Walk, planting and displanting, opening views, &c.

daughter of Charles Hamilton & Granddaughter of James Earl of Abercorn. They married May 17 1750. — She was made Necessary Woman at St. James's, where I have often been in her society — and a most charming woman, she was

Miss Duck
Da.
of Stephens Duck
the Poet.

Would you think it my Luck (for the fault I ^{now} must
your Jenny at last it quite covetous grown
For millions, if fortune would lavishly pour
But I should be wretched if I had not Moore,

2

As gay as I am, could I spend half my days
In dances and Operas, Meddles and plays
Had fate your poor Jenny with tears would implew
Oh alas! my dear girl what are these without None

3

Is the same thing with pleasure, with money with ^{men}
And I think I shall now be happy again
I have lovers, and daughters, and prates good & true
And yet like true woman, I still sigh for Moore

4

Mamma she cries Jenny why all this ado
You may have a husband you know child or two
But I pouted and whimpered, & fretted & swore
That I would have none, if I could not have Moore

5

The Giant, poor Devil! has just now bun hue
And has offered to settle eight hundred a year
But I answered the fellow, as I once did before
You know it won't do Sir, for I must have Moore

6

Is the fools I despise should censure my fame
That I am as wise as some folks I could name
But worship that idol, which others adore
Those that have thousands would gladly have None

Now in spite of this craving I bow and protest
At avarice ne'er had a place in my breast
I swore I'd not envy the miswif's store
I had enough for myself and one Moore,
Unmarkable tall man who paid his addresses to
Miss Hamilton

Get with my girl wonder who this dear one can
Whose merit can boast such a conquest as
But you shan't know his name tho' told you before
It begins with an M. I dare not say more



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I wish it may be for the better. There were sad scrub-trees, if you remember, planted as if it was to represent a shooting-bow; for they formed a curve on one side, and a straight line on the other: this led to the lower gates that part the Lane from the Walk. Twenty-seven good straight elms, instead of them, make the lines parallel; and I have hopes of knocking down ten *ecclesiastical* trees, which obstructed the prospect (as you and Mr. Hall assured me) from the Old Summer-house.—If the whole College of King's in Cambridge should be more favourable to me than one single joint of a foe (I will not say limb) of a College which you had to deal with, I shall triumph: but I must not brag too soon; perhaps my scheme may prove as abortive as yours.

I want to know your answer about the Urns being under the Double Oak.—Pray tell my friend Tom I make my servants collect all the roots and lay them at the door of the Coppice, against he exerts his skill in rearing them up into the form he proposes.

The asking you to come here at this season, is downright Irish assurance: but it is allowable, I hope, to wish it.—Whenever *wisping* is mentioned, the Green Book presents itself to my view: but it is as in a dream that vanishes.

L

—I have

—I have sent a special messenger to Somerviles-Aston, to Outing; not without reminding him of your just reproof (at least it is *just* as far as concerns *writing*; for as to *riding* you cannot expect it. I am sure he would not reach the Mines of Peru at this season, if they were but thirty miles off, in a fortnight, though he were to bring away as much as he could desire of their riches. He thinks it impracticable to come to Barrells, which is fourteen miles, though he promised, though his cloaths are here, and though the Birmingham-coach could carry him any Monday from Henley to London, by Oxford; which convenience is newly established, to our great emolument. Would it not be a good scheme (this dirty weather, when riding is no more a pleasure) for you to come some Monday in the said stage-coach from Birmingham, to breakfast at Barrells (for they always breakfast at Henley); and on the Saturday following, it would convey you back to Birmingham, unless you would stay longer, which would be better still, and equally easy? for the stage goes every week the same road; it breakfasts at Henley, and lies at Chipping Norton; goes early next day to Oxford, stays there all day and night; and gets on the third day to London:

London: Which from Birmingham at this season is pretty well, considering how long they are at Oxford; and it is much more agreeable to the country than the Warwick way was.—But why has this coach induced me to begin upon another sheet of paper? It is a shame to torment you so, and with such nonsense.—You once, I remember, Sir, commended my hand-writing and correctness; but this will shew it was all *flummery*.

I asked you what your new *books* were, or *pamphlets*? You did not answer me: perhaps you had not gone through them.—I wish the people in town would give themselves time to write, and amuse us a little: but I believe they neither write nor read. How can they, as their time is taken up with new-fashioned amusements, which, like Eternity, have neither beginning nor end? I imagine *sleep* will be left off, for I do not hear of an hour allotted for it. As to *thought*, it has employment enough in weighing these different amusements, and sorting them so as not to lose any in the twenty-four hours: And booksellers I believe might shut up shop, if it was not for us country-puts. Perhaps when the *Jubilee* is over, there may be a cessation to the present whirl of diversions.

L 2

My

148 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

My paper and the clock remind me that it is late; so I employ the rest of the space left, in assuring you that I am, with great esteem, and without one particle of flummery, Sir,

Your faithful and obliged servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

From my Bed-Room, Wednesday, 29th.

My writing a Postscript after so long a letter is not according to the *† fineness of things*, I confess it; but I cannot well avoid it, for here enters the messenger whom I sent yesterday to Outing.

Past Five in the Afternoon.

This proved a mistake, and the messenger is not yet returned; and I am obliged to send this letter away now, or it will be too late to give it in charge to those who are to carry it to-morrow.

My compliments to your Brother, and at Broom.

† Be it known, these words thus applied are fashionable.

LETTER

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LETTER XXXIX.

SIR,

Barrells, December 6th, 1749.

YOUR letter of the 26th ult. and mine of the 29th, crossed each other at Birmingham. The next day yours arrived safe at Barrells, and gave me more than wonted pleasure, as my spirits much wanted such a cordial, being depressed by various things, particularly by the death of Mr. Davis, who leaves his Widow, (my friend) whom I love and esteem, in deep affliction, though without tears, or pomp of sorrow. He was a gentleman-like man, generous, and capable of being a friend; which many in higher life are not: and to her he was Brother, Father, Friend, as well as tender Husband. She had not recovered the concern the loss of her only child had caused her, when this greater misfortune befel her.—We are all born to suffer afflictions; and I have had a large share: but I sincerely protest none has ever been felt by me so severely as those which have befallen my friends. And as if *that* was well known to my evil star, it sheds its influence over most of those

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persons

persons I have an affection for.—Pray God it may not reach you!

Here I break off to tell you Outing's answer to my message in his own words; which are these, "My motions are at so great an uncertainty, that it makes me uneasy to myself and rude to my friends. The hopes of seeing Mr. Shenstone prevented me from writing to him; and now that I am able to do it, *Will's* impatience prevents me from telling him so."—This said *Will*, you must know, is the messenger I sent early one morning, and he did not return till late next evening, because Mr. Outing kept him to have time to answer my letter; which he did answer about the tenth part of: the distance is fourteen miles, and the messenger a speedy one.—Jacky Reynalds has been here since, and tells me he is at present at Sir Robert Cocks's, consulting every person and every map to find out (not the longitude, but) the nearest way to Portsmouth, whether through London or across the country. His person is still as I suppose in Gloucestershire, his best cloaths are at Barrells, and his thoughts on board the Hazard Sloop (where the lad he has the care of is to be placed) or rather on the road thither, where I do not doubt but he fancies there

are dragons innumerable waiting for him; for an indolent person may form as many difficulties when he is to undertake a journey, as a child frightened by its nurse, or a person who has the *night-mare* sees bugbears.

The hopes you give me of the Green-Book feeds my imagination, and I flatter myself the first swallow will bring it; for I do not imagine you will honour the robin-red-breast with your errand; and he is the only feathered visitant I am likely to have for some time,

If I was not tender of encroaching upon Mrs. Emme Scudamore's rights, I would propose to you to exchange a pair or two of pigeons of the carrier kind (of which I have some) next spring; and by winter they may convey letters to and from the Leasowes and Barrells with great diligence, without her assistance, or her friend William's. Why should it not be done here as well as abroad, as it is especially by our merchants in the eastern countries, who often gain riches by early advice that expeditious way? and why should the fund of fortune be still supplied with care, and that of friendship neglected? It is to the latter I would raise an altar, and wish to have it blaze as bright as that seems to do in the

ingenious device you sent me, which is (*sans compliment*) the prettiest of the kind I ever saw for a seal; and hope you will permit me to make use of it by having one cut according to it.

Sunday, December 10th, 1749.

Here I broke off, with an intention of copying my letter, and sending a neater edition of it, this being full of blots; but had not an opportunity of sending it safely to Birmingham; when on Friday I received yours, of the 5th, and this moment your last, of the 7th, by Pedley's son. As he is to return in the morning early, and I am to have Lord Archer and other company at dinner to-morrow, I shall not have time to copy it over; so beg you will excuse it, and receive this incorrect epistle for the sake of its candour, not for its wit or its beauty: for it has no more pretence to either, than a hurdygurdy has to harmony,

I think Mr. Meredith's account of your Grove is a very true one; and as to what relates to the buildings (since he chooses to make a parallel between them and those at Hagley) I dare say you will not dispute giving the preference to the latter; nor set your Gothic Bench in opposition to their Gothic Castle: and yet give me leave to say the for-

mer is in the better taste and proportion. Mr. Meredith never saw Hagley, therefore I wonder how he came to speak of it as a judge: That he admires the Leasowes is certain, and is just.—I hate puns as much as you can do; but they serve now and then, as such dishes which the French call *Hors d'œuvres*, to interperse amongst those of more substance, and are counted as nothing.

I like your fancy of making your parson Bishop of Nova Scotia, which would be making him of some use. I have not experienced the good luck you wish me with ecclesiastics: so cannot say any thing in their favour; though I wish I could, because of their function, which puts it in their power to do good or hurt: and they generally choose the latter.

It is time to speak to you about the Urn; which I cannot do without returning you a million of thanks for your interesting yourself so much in what gives me pleasure, and for the trouble you have given yourself in drawing out the several sketches of urns; all which are in exceeding good taste, if mine may be permitted to judge. I sent one (the smallest in the drawings) to Warwick, to ask what it would cost if executed quite plain with

with the pedestal, and the size of the lesser ones at Hagley, according to what you wrote me about them; and am to have an answer next Tuesday, though I do not propose having it made yet; for the weather will not allow it to be set up with safety, as I imagine, till about April.—I would employ Pedley preferably to any other workman, if I had it worked at home, both from your recommendation and his own skill; as also from compassion for his misfortunes: but I have several reasons which prevent my having it done at home; and amongst others, I have no place to have it worked in, nor any to keep it in when finished, till it is a proper season to set it up. Had Pedley had any dwelling where he could have made it, and from whence I could have sent for it, I would order it immediately, though it were to cost me more; but as it is, I cannot employ him, because I cannot have it done at home; which I am sorry for, especially as you, Sir, recommend him, which weighs not a little with me; nor shall any one else do that or any thing in his way for me but him, if ever I have any stone worked here.

LETTER

LETTER XL.

SIR,

Wednesday.

WHEN I answered yours by your servant, I told you I had not time to examine the urns you kindly sketched out for me (Mr. Allen, &c. chattering round me). I have now looked them over, and like them well. I think the proportion of the large one (N^o. 5.) seems to be very just; and I believe the lesser size is big enough for my small Coppice. I cannot admire the foliage at the necks of the urns, either at bottom or on the cover. I think those fluted thus are better; and it is full ornamental enough, if they must not be quite plain. As to the placing the Poetical Attributes either on the urn or the pedestal, or on both, you have given variety of agreeable specimens. I confess, what pleases my eye most is the fistula and pipe on the fifth urn, and the oval wreath on the first pedestal. The lyre, erect as it is shewn on the second pedestal, I cannot admire; nor do I like the surrounding festoons,

N^o. 1,

156 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

N^o. 1, 3, 4, so well as the slight festoon in the middle: so that I had fixed upon having the pipe, &c. on the urn, and the wreath on the pedestal, and was considering about what should be on the other side, when I recollected, that if the urn is placed, as I last proposed, under the great Double Oak, there will only be one side seen perfect, viz. that which will front the new entrance at the corner of the Pit; the opposite side will be hid by the tree, and the side towards the Service Walk will be filled up with trees, and the same on the other side: Therefore if you think that something ornamental should be seen through the trees, we must have a surrounding festoon of natural flowers tied with knots, as in N^o. 3: But (if you have no objection) I should rather like to have the urn plain all but on one side, as is for example Mrs. Lyttelton's urn in Hagley Church, where she is lying on a couch; and nothing is represented on the other three sides. In this case, I would by all means have the pipe, &c. as you have introduced it (N^o. 5.) on the large urn, and the oval wreath on the pedestal, with the English inscription within it, as it is on that you sent, (N^o. 1.) and the *His Saltem* on the upper plinth, as in N^o. 4. But then, where

where can we write the *Postquam*, &c.? May it not be just above the wreath? All this would enrich the front, and the rest would be plain, and only beautiful by the shape and proportion. I cannot like lyres or even masks on an urn, I mean any thing that projects so much on the sides; it takes off that roundness which is its beauty.—I thought to have the urn and pedestal worked at the Marble-yard at Warwick, and to send my own team for them. I suppose Pedley made my urns which are on the New Summer-house there, and that he still works there. He can guess at the value of such a one as we propose, if you are so good to ask him; and I should be very willing to have it made by him. You may know the price if quite plain, or one side adorned as abovementioned; or else the festoon round, and the wreath on one front of the pedestal; or the slight wreath in the middle on three sides, and the tibia, &c. on the fourth, with the pipe and a lyre obliquely placed with it, instead of the sprig of laurel, as the laurel-wreath will be below it. But after all, this last will be a dearer way, because the pedestal would require something on four sides: so, if you please, we will stick to carving only the front, as I mentioned before; and if that
should

should be quite improper, I must in that case submit to the surrounding festoon; but shall give up the fistula and pipe with very great regret: so hope it is allowable to keep it.

If you was not as anxious as myself to have due honour paid to the memory of our worthy friend, I should not be so rude as to interrupt thus often your amusements, and turn your thoughts from the pleasing decorations you are daily adding at the Leasowes to those humble ones I exhibit here.—What would I give for a little stream to run at the foot of this pedestal! I dare say you would be generous enough to part with a small rivulet, if you could persuade it to run down hither.—I imagine your islands must have a pretty effect.—Is your Summer-house yet transformed; or does it remain a butt for Mr. Lyttelton's and Mr. Miller's censure? They find so much at the Leasowes to raise their envy, and consequently their spleen, that it is happy for them some one object offers that they can vent it upon: when *that* is removed, they will wish it up again; so vexed will they be to find themselves under a necessity of commending. What can be a greater misfortune to a critic? Pope would have died many years ago, had he been obliged to refrain from satire, the
sole

sole delight of his little peevish temper. How happy was he to meet with a Timon at his villa! The world furnishes many: but those who would find one, must not seek him at the Leafowes.

How charitable would it be, Sir, if you would take a trip to this little Retreat at this melancholy season!—The English hang themselves, it is said, in the month of November, and I find the French begin to catch the infection; for they go to *la Trappe*; that and hanging are synonymous. What then, if, to indulge the splenetic humour which the density of the air and the shortness of the days incline you to, you should come and spend them in my chimney-corner? Nothing will put you enough in mind of spring to make you regret it, unless it is the singing of my two Canary-birds; and they shall, if you please, be sent out of the parlour; after which the most profound silence will reign, and dulness be triumphant. This is what I invite you to; but you will be no sooner here than the scene will appear to me quite changed: my proposal is therefore mercenary: I confess it, self-love will have it so.—*A propos*, Where is the Green-Book? Why did I ever trust it out of my hands? Will it not, when copied over, honour

hour the picture of the intended urn with a place, and honour me with the irregular Ode? May I hope that you will set about it in earnest, at your leisure hours?—Adieu: I scarce know what I write.—Parson Allen kept me up till Three to hear his stories; and on Sunday I sat up all night, and shall not keep much more regular hours till after next Friday; for I am to dine and sup at Spermal, (the Parson will have it so) and on that day (or rather on Saturday morning) I shall take leave of the present moon: nor shall I have occasion to use the next; for the roads will be impassable by that time for a carriage that quarters, and indeed there will be nobody scarcely left in the country to visit. If you do not come, I shall wish I had the power of transforming myself into a fly that lies sleeping or dead in some obscure corner, till the sunbeams wake him, and warm him into life.

Shall you not hear from Mr. Whistler from London? his letters will entertain you; and you will I dare say let me partake of the pleasure.—When the Duchess of Somerset returns from Bath, I suppose I shall hear from Her Grace.—Miss Patty promises to write; but I much suspect the numerous amusements London affords to one of her age, and who has
never

never spent but the last springs there, nor ever seen it before, will often prevent her sitting down to write.—Amongst other diversions, I find they act plays sometimes at home, to which all Mrs. Meredith's acquaintance are invited. Mr. Meredith and some other young gentlemen do the mens parts, and Miss Patty the top part of the women—They have scenes from the Play-house, and make proper stage-dresses—Her acting is much admired. I made her do a scene or two, to give me a notion of it, and it struck me.—Monimia was what she acted at home: but I think she does some of the mad parts (which Mrs. Cibber is famous for) very finely.—Next summer they propose a much longer stay at Barrells, where I hope you will meet them; and they may shew you some of these kind of amusements, so uncommon in these unfrequented shades; if we can muster up performers.

I just now perceive the word *Adieu*, two pages back. Am I mad to write such an *Addenda*? But I let my pen gallop on, and you never will permit me to stop it; so you must not complain of its impertinence.—Emme will, I dare say, be thankful that the packet is so large; as she will judge of its merit by

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its weight. You will, I hope, excuse its faults, because it conveys one inviolable truth ; which is, that I am

Your most faithful

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R XLI.

SIR,

Tuesday.

YESTERDAY must be marked with the blackest ink in the kalendar of my life. My friends and neighbours seemed to combine, and leave me at once to solitude and regret. Mrs. Meredith and her four daughters set out from hence, at eight o'clock, in their coach with my horses, for Oxford ; and Mr. Hall set out at the same time from Henley in the stage : he will not be at London before ten or fourteen days : they will be there on Thursday.—Mrs. Meredith and I sat up all night on Sunday, by choice ; the rest went to bed ; by which contrivance I secured to myself some rest last night : whereas if Sleepiness had not forced me to it, Thought would have deprived me of it.—Nothing is so terrible as parting from friends : and to have taken

taken leave and then have gone to bed, had been such an image of death, that I avoided it as much as possible, and endeavoured to banish them all from my mind.—Luckily a man came to fell some trees, just as they were setting out: and immediately looking upon him as upon a tutelar angel sent to my assistance, I never returned to the house, but walked, under his protection, all over my grounds, and particularly to the farther end of the Long Avenue; where I ordered a crooked row of scrub trees to be fallen, and a strait row of elms to be planted, and other views to be opened, by felling and transplanting about the Old Summer-house; as also near the Grove-Pool, to shew the winding of the walk from the Coppice and other points; and several roots to be stocked up for future root-houses.—*A propos*: I have taken the liberty this moment to send your trusty Tom to reconnoitre a place in the Coppice for a root-seat; as also some roots I have stocked, to see if there are enough. You will permit him some time to assist me in making one. This I have thoughts of placing in a corner near where the two chairs now stand; from which one shall just discover a bit of a Gloucestershire hill over' the Pit; but it will be through a

very narrow winding-path, the rest of that Open being to be full planted.—Since I am speaking of that part of my environs, I will tell you of a new scheme I have formed for placing the urn. I thought, before I received yours, that the area round the bottom of the pedestal would be too narrow in the place we had once fixed upon for the urn; and I also think the tree, which would be its canopy there, is too inconsiderable: so that my present design is to place it under the Great Double Oak, whose venerable trunk will support and branches shade it more properly than the other oak could have done. It will be like raising a throne, as well as a monument, for Mr. Somerville; and could he see it, he would, I believe, think himself more honourably placed than if he was *kicked* down below one's feet, which might offend his elevated spirit.—What think you then of filling the end of the Service Walk, where the entrance now is, with trees, reserving glades for the prospects, but hiding the house and gardens, and of placing the urn there, as much surrounded with ever-greens as possible, and having a small entrance from the field, in the nook near the corner of the Pit, which will front the fore-part of the urn, but which is not to be the common

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entrance to the Coppice? Perhaps a little root-seat may be there, under the shade of the hedge, instead of where the Chairs are; from whence one may contemplate the urn one way, and have a prospect through one of the openings of the Walk the other:—But this last thing of the seat comes into my head only now as I write; the rest I thought of before, and scrawled it on a bit of rumpled paper, only to make myself comprehend my own meaning; and when I had done, was going to throw it in the fire, when I received yours; by which I conceived that you had doubts about the propriety of the lower situation. This makes me venture to send this same rumpled scrawl, which may perhaps give you an idea of my last intention, which I shall execute, unless you disapprove it.—Miss Harriot's thought is undoubtedly right, and shall be pursued. The Serpentine shall not be on the brink of the Pit, as described in the paper, but shall go through the midst of the trees, and the Pit be all given to the field from the willows. The slope shall be turfed as far as the willows: below that shall be perpendicular. Some white pales I have, may go where the steps now are, to reach the willows, and fence out the cattle. If they

or the sheep come into the front of the Pit, so much the prettier; and they can do no harm.

Two o'clock.

Mr. Allen is now making his entrance, and comes to eat some of Lord Archer's venison; so I shall not have time to look over the urns.

Five o'clock.

I have looked at the urns with Mr. Allen. He approves extremely of "*His Saltem*" on the plinth, and "*Postquam*," &c. and of the bay-wreath on the pedestal.—We all like the simplicity of No. 5. and the tibia and fistula in the middle. I am for having no other ornament than *that* to the urn, and no other than the bay-wreath to the pedestal.—What if a lyre was added obliquely to the tibia and fistula, or else hung upon the other side of the urn, and the bay-branch left out, as the pedestal will have bay enough upon it?—The Coat of Arms would be greatly absurd, for the reasons you give; but I could wish I had a medallion of him carved within the wreath: but that is not to be had.—I shall leave the proportions to your judgment, but think the lesser one at Hagley will

will do well.—I do not like the foliage that forms the foot of the fifth urn. Why might not the foot be fluted as the cover? Upon the whole, I would have it very plain: the wreath on the pedestal, and the fistula and wreath on the urn are sufficient. Masks or lyres, or any thing as handles, spoil the look, and the proportion, in my opinion.—Could you not complete your favours, by asking Pedley what he would do it for in Warwick-stone?—I return Gibbs; and cannot like Mr. Coulston's dress and full-bottomed wig on a tomb.—You are welcome to keep my old book as long as you please; and I will enquire about modern ones.

Methinks I smell the *sans pareille* hither. How could you tantalize me? and how could you treat it as a *moderate* matter? Stinking tobacco is no *moderate* matter to those who love it.—Let me know where your perfumer lives, and Mr. Hall shall be wrote to, to buy me some.

Lord Dudley's call up to Town is not singular. All who are supposed to vote for the Court have received a letter to the same purpose; but all have not agreed to obey.—The more haste is made, as the K— goes early to Hanover.

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What

What are your new books and pamphlets? Let me see some; or rather, let me have your company. You are generous, and I am become an object of compassion in this solitude and these short days.—Outing treats me as he does you. Gloucestershire monopolizes all his courteousness.

They talk round me, and oblige me to write mere nonsense, or to conclude in haste. The latter is best for your sake.—So adieu.

Yours with esteem and sincerity,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I could wish you had a busto-seal like what you were about inventing; and that you sealed with dark-coloured wax, and could gild the busto as you have done the Viola's Head, with which you sealed the roll to-day.

I send a Blind Boy Miss Patty drew at candle-light, to hide the dirty scrawled paper with the Oak and Urn.—Mr. Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Holyoak's compliments.

One word more about Urns.—I send you, Sir, the inclosed; being an answer from Mr. Hands, who was desired by me to enquire at the Marble-yard the expence of an urn and pedestal, according to the dimensions of the
 lesser

leffer ones at Hagley that you sent; because (as I wrote you word by young Pedley) I had not conveniency to have one worked at home.—I sent the N°. 6, of your last drawings, because I liked the form. As to ornaments, I never named them; and could wish it could be executed quite plain; and yet something expressive of him as a poet should be too.—Would not the laurel-wreath encircling the inscription be sufficient? The shape and proportion of the urn is all I should wish perfect; and had rather it had no ornament, or next to none. I know you will be so good to oblige me with one more draught according to this plain scheme, with the inscription and motto's, and I will have it executed. A thing much ornamented would be no proper expression of friendship from me, nor would it become the place: which is exposed a good deal to the licentiousness of our mob, which is not near so decent as yours. I am sure you will say *sufficit* to this: So I have done; but have not ceased to be

Your much obliged, humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S.

Tuesday Night, Dec. 12th, 1749.

P. S. For once I thought to have spared you the trouble of reading a Postscript; but I must tell you that Lord Archer dined here yesterday, and I shall dine there to-morrow. He asked me how far off you lived? and added, that a gentleman had told him lately that yours was the prettiest and most elegant place in all these parts; and that he imagined by the description, it must be like Mr. Southcote's.—I depreciated it in one sense, imagining he had conceived a grand idea of it; and told him it was what I had taken the liberty to call a *Ferme ornée*. “And what” (said he) “is more agreeable? It is the very thing one should choose; and what I have heard Lord Bolingbroke made Dawley.” But I told him, as to that, my Brother's calling it a Farm was only meant as it was really one; for he then kept 700*l.* per annum in hand: but that the house was much too fine and large to be called a Farm. But on the other side, its environs were not ornamented, nor its prospects good.

LETTER XLII.

SIR,

Barrells, December 28th, 1749.

THE hopes you give me of seeing you here these holidays, are more welcome than any New-year's-gift I could have received: and as the frost is over, I depend upon their not being frustrated.—Your compassion for Mrs. Davis shews a good heart; and I think she deserves the opinion you have conceived of her; of which I acquainted her, being glad to contribute towards every pleasure she is capable of feeling in her present melancholy circumstances. The remarks they suggest to you, are perfectly just and philosophical: but the difficulty is, how to put in practice what you would advise; for I know by my own experience, that the things which amuse when the heart and mind are at ease, cease to do so when they are strongly affected, and when amusements are most wanted to divert thought from the subject that causes grief: And yet I am still so far of your opinion, that I cannot be sorry (though she is so) that it is her lot to have a multiplicity of business to go through (being sole executrix

executrix to her husband); nor that she has already quitted the house she lived in, having let it: for the hurry this has caused, joined to the examining various books of accounts, &c. must, I think, sometimes have obliged her, notwithstanding delicacy of imagination, to turn her thoughts from the dead to the living. It is true, she looks upon these affairs as irksome: but as she is now incapable of relishing those diversions which are calculated for pleasure, I think it is well these others present themselves; without which, I am persuaded she would give herself up to unavailing regret, though not with that pomp of sorrow, which I never can forbear supposing to be more affectation than it is reality.—I have invited her to Barrells; but when, or whether her affairs will permit her to come, I am ignorant,

Mr. Allen desired his compliments to you, when he left Barrells last Saturday; as did Mr. Hall, by a letter I received the post after (viz. Christmas-day); expressing his great hurry, perplexities, and uncertainty of the time of his return; all occasioned by the sudden death of the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry; by whose order he went to his house at ten o'clock on Friday morning to be examined (which

(which he had already been at Lambeth); but "Lo! (he says) the Bishop himself was "called upon at Five the same morning, to "be examined at a great and just Tribunal:" so that he must go for the third time to Lambeth to get a new fiat; and, in short, be at much more trouble and expence by this unexpected accident. He adds, that he had secured a dispensation before the Bishop's death; but I suppose the holidays are also obstructions to the proceedings in the Courts.

I humbly beg Mrs. Emme's pardon for having once presumed to substitute carrier pigeons in her place. She ought not, I confess, to have them set up as rivals against her, since she is as true to her trust as the doves can be, and as expeditious as Nature will allow her to be.

I cannot imagine how I could suppose Mr. M—— to mean Mr. Meredith; and I can less suppose how Mr. Miller could make so absurd a comparison about the Leasowes and Hagley. Would it not have been sufficient for him to have spoke the truth, by saying the Leasowes had more beauties than Hagley; and better use was made of the gifts of Nature, such as water-views, &c. and have left structures out of the question, which
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are owing to the purse more than to the taste; and with which you never pretended to vye? As to myself, I am not ashamed to own that I like even a root-seat at the Leasowes better than I do his *modern ruin* of an *ancient castle*; nor is it extraordinary. How many are there, besides myself, whose eyes oblige them (without knowing why) to be more delighted with the Banqueting-house at Whitehall than with Blenheim Castle, and with the front of Covent-Garden Church than with St. Paul's Cathedral!—Such is the force of truth, exemplified by that of proportion.

Lord Archer, &c. dined here; and I dined and supped at Umberlade last week; and I believe they go for London next week: As they come into Warwickshire but every other year, I fear I shall not have an opportunity of introducing you to his Lordship, nor him to you at the Leasowes, before the year 1751: but if the weather proves favourable when you are here, I will carry you to see the house and gardens any morning you please.

Now for the inexhaustible topic of Urns. I approve greatly of your last urn, N°. 5; which answers to the shape and simplicity of what I wished for, and will execute: and I agree with you in preferring two plinths to one.

one. It remains then only to discuss the one point, *Decoration*; in which point the placing the motto's are included. The *His Saltem* upon the upper plinth must be undoubtedly; and I am much pleased, as is Mr. Allen, (a better judge than myself) with the *Postquam te Fata*, &c. But we propose to you two things: his is, That, below where Mr. Somerville's name, &c. is placed, should be added

“ Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit.”

But this he entirely submits to you: only I think with him, that as the other motto regards him chiefly as a poet, this last will record him as a man who deserved the esteem of every good man; and was regretted accordingly. As to my own proposal, I fear you will not like it: but you and I may both be in the right, in agreeing to the inscription's being in English—

“ Sacred to the Memory
of

WILLIAM SOMERVILE, Esq.”

It may be uncouth; but a woman may be privileged to swerve from such rules as she may be supposed not to understand: and it will better please the generality of his and my common acquaintance, as well as the mob, whom

176 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

whom you call your friends. There will be less affectation in it, and will more become me. As also, to have the whole seem plain, and not costly. And also, the reason of my erecting it, to be as plainly understood to mean no more than my esteem for him as a worthy Man and a good Poet, who had honoured me with his friendship: but I would ward against the *foolish* and the *ensorious*, who might be capable of forging several such ridiculous reasons (notwithstanding his age and every other circumstance) that might draw on a reproach upon me for paying this tribute to his memory; and although I am in no sort afraid of unjust censure, yet I have suffered too much by it not to be cautious.—As I have taken the liberty to give you this hint in a friendly way, I am almost sure you will willingly agree with me to leave out garlands of flowers, &c. and (exclusive of the reason above-mentioned) I am charmed with your thought of alluding to the Chace; which you very justly say *would be the most proper ornament, a Wreath and French-Horn*: but then you say, *you give it up, because you cannot manage it well*. I know you could; and I see some rough sketches on the back of your paper, which
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do not displease me. Permit me to ask, Would it be amiss (though draw it I cannot) to have a French-Horn suspended from the bottom of the mouldings of the upper part of the pedestal by a riband, and two branches of laurel to be crossed through it, turned upwards, so as to form three parts of a wreath?



Nobody but yourself could ever be supposed to comprehend such a scrawl as this; and yet I dare say, you will comprehend my meaning, and then throw it into the fire, as I request. If after these hints you will allow the motto's, as well as the inscription, to be all in the front (the urn being plain) I think the whole will be fixed: but here you will have the trouble to draw the wreath and horn afresh. But I do not ask pardon for giving it you, as it is not meant to assist me in adorning my farm, but in paying due honours to our deceased friend; who is as much lamented by you as by myself.

You will receive this on New-year's-day I suppose: may it be propitious to you! and

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So may every succeeding year! This wish is unlimited; so is my esteem and friendship for you. Need I add that I am

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH?

Pray either come and surprize me, or else let me know when you will come, by the first opportunity.—I forgot to mention that our intended situation for the urn will not shew any ornament or inscription, except such as are in front; so that they will be needless: and as we have agreed the urn shall be plain, the fewer ornaments upon the pedestal, the better. But I cannot forbear thinking, as there are two plinths to support the urn besides the pedestal, the whole proposed scheme might be executed on the one side; that is, on the front of the pedestal.—Where do you get your thick gilt paper? Mine is transparent.

N°. 1. I think the fistula suspended has a good effect *hanging to the wreath*. N°. 2, 3, are very proper, (especially that without the lyre) in case a circular wreath is admitted. N°. 4. The proportion to my eye is agreeable; as I dare say it is to the justness of the composite order. N°. 5. The proportion of the Corinthian pedestal does not please me equally;

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ly; but I am (perhaps for want of skill) prejudiced against that order. The medallion I like much, and think it an ornament greatly in taste; but it will be difficult to get such a thing executed, and more so to preserve it from moss, which would disguise the features. Yet, had a bust been made of him, as was proposed by Richardson, I would have had the medallion done from it, and have liked it better than any thing else. N°. 6. (This is sent to Warwick) I think this the prettiest shape for the urn; and it most resembles those little ones the Duchess of Somerset turned in wood for me; which she copied from an antique urn brought her by the Countess of Pomfret from Italy. I send one of them for you to look at. N°. 7. This is undoubtedly the front view I prefer as to ornament; but do not like the shape of the urn for the reason you give. N°. 8. This mantling is very well, (especially that with flowerets) in case it is necessary to have any thing on those sides of the urn that are not in front.—Query, Whether the wreath left entirely out of the laurel-pedestal, and the laurel-sprig added to the fistula and tibia (as in N°. 5, of the *first drawings*) might not be as well; but placed something higher on the urn, and not suspended;

pended; as there will be in this case (of a plain urn) no wreath to hang it to?—I should like the whole to be as plain as possible: that is to say, as far as is consistent with expressing my friendship for Mr. Somerville, and his poetical genius; trophies of which must undoubtedly be on one side the urn: but all the rest would be as mere ornament to the work and to the place, which is in no sort my intention. Neither would I have it expensive (for more reasons than barely that of saving money); but I would express with as much simplicity as possible my respect for his memory, without flattery or pomp; and that it was my friendship only which made me raise this memorandum of him: so that my first thought of all was only to have had an altar, without any urn, and something wrote upon it equivalent to what you have put round the blazing altar you drew out in your letter, viz. *Sacred to Friendship*; or to that effect. But as an urn will undoubtedly be handsome, I am, upon the whole, for having an exceeding plain one, in as just symmetry as possible; and on one side, only some proper trophy to him, such as the tibia and fistula only; and the laurel on the pedestal to inclose his name, &c.—The places you pro-

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pose for the other motto's on the plinths, are very proper; and nothing can be more proper than the *His Saltem* and the *Postquam*, &c. unless one could have found one in his own Works, which was suitable, and good at the same time; which I confess I do not find in those I have seen of his. Outing's memory (which is a good one) had not recorded any: for which reason, when the thing was spoken of, he said there must be a Latin one; and desired me to advise with you; and mentioned none himself, but *His saltem accumulem donis*, &c. and was for having an altar ornamented with flowers, &c. besides the urn: but of all this he spoke to you before, without my knowledge.—So, as to my present plain scheme, agreeable to the form and method you seem to approve, and to the motto's you chose, I beg the favour you will draw one more, and it shall be executed, provided you will further promise to come and direct where it shall be placed; that is, on which spot,

“ Under the Oak's protecting Shade:”

(as himself expresses it): for the double oak shall be his canopy; unless you change your opinion and mine.

I forgot to say that I have a strange dislike

to *strawberries, acorns, artichokes*, or any vegetable that I have hitherto seen, for the handle of any vase or urn; and had rather have none, or at most a small round nob on the top of the cover, such as you have given to N°. 6; which, as I mentioned before, is sent to Warwick.

L E T T E R XLIII.

S I R,

Barrells, January 31st, 1749-50.

IF either of us regarded ceremony, I should wait till I had the pleasure of hearing from you, before I troubled you with renewing our correspondence; and then I should endeavour to express how much joy your company here had given me, and how much regret your absence had caused me. But as I always suppose, when the rays of friendship appear, ceremony vanishes, I take it for granted, you will use none of it with me, nor expect any from me: It is but a vapour.—This point settled, I must tell you that I have been more than nine days (the common period) confined with a cold; and, very happily for

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you, have been unable to set pen to paper. My first act and deed, which is writing to you now, shews how many such you have escaped: and still greater would you think your escape, if you knew how very stupid my illness made me.

Not the self-flattery of J—— G—— ~~C——~~ *Cooper* X
junior, Esq. in his Preface to the Life of Socrates, nor his smart scourges of great men in his Notes, have awakened me enough to read all his book; but I will do it soon, as your very just remarks in the margin carry me agreeably through the road which this young Biographer seems to have sown with nettles: but as he raises himself upon that bank, I wish they do not sting him when they come to maturity.

I send you a letter of the Duchefs of Somerset's; which I desire you will return as soon as you have read it: for till then I cannot answer it.—That she should agree in liking all you write, I do not wonder; but am not a little proud of having chose out a poem of yours to send her, which pleases both Her Grace and her chaplain. For though it would stand the test of all the Duchesses and their chaplains in England, yet that *my* Duchefs
N 4 judges

John Gilbert Cooper

judges as myself, raises my vanity, and increases my pleasure.

You left yourself in safe hands, when you intrusted me with several things of your writing: for all those you called incorrect, or did not commission me to shew, I never did; though, according to my own opinion, I might have done it without offence to your Muse: but it would have been an offence to you; and friendship is with me sacred.

This is wrote on the paper you was so kind to give me; but with the worst of pens. Take pity of me; and let Aris at Birmingham know that you desire, if I send to him for any thing in his way, you would have him serve me as he does you. I shall reap the benefit of this, and you will have some of the gleanings.

I had almost forgot to tell you, that my strict obedience to your commands has nearly incurred displeasure from Mr. Outing; to whom I wrote upon business (and was obliged to send to Somerviles-Aston on purpose); and in my letter said you would have gone there from hence, but that myself and my servants had told you they believed the house was filled with friends of Mr. Reynalds's from Montgomery; and that hearing he was gone

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to Sir Robert Cocks's, you judged it might be to make room : To which he answers, " He is " sorry you was hindered from going. That " under that *hospitable roof* there would have " been room for you : and that it was not " want of room there which sent him to " Sir Robert Cocks's."—I repeat, as near as I can remember, his words ; and am sorry if any person here said any thing to determine you contrary to your intentions. I should add, that he says he hopes to make all up with you by letter, as I hope he will ; and tells me he will be in London at his old lodging in Charles-court, the end of this week.

It is more than time to release you ; and it will be, I hope, unnecessary to add, that I am

Your faithful and obliged

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I scratched out the compliments I improperly placed on the other side the paper to your Brother, and Mr. and Mrs. Dolman ; but mean them very sincerely, not as compliments barely, but stedfast wishes.

Have you not a relation who is printing a book concerning Prayer (his name I think is Pearfall) ?

Pearfall)? I have subscribed to it by Mr. Hall's desire.

L E T T E R XLIV.

S I R,

Barrells, Valentine's-day, 1749-50.

EVERY day brings us strong and fresh proofs of the folly of being solicitous after grandeur, riches, power, or indeed after any other earthly blessing; which is snatched from us as soon as possessed.—You guess that the death of the Duke of Somerset causes my present reflection; which millions of things might daily oblige one to make, and still give greater cause for. The death of a man of sixty-six, who has been tormented many years with the gout, cannot be deemed an uncommon or unexpected event: and yet I confess it surprized me when I received the news, near as much as when I received that of the death of his Son, Lord Beauchamp. The esteem I had for His Grace, and the friendship I have, and have long had, for his Duchess, could not let me hear of his death without shedding tears of regret: and the ac-

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count she gives me of the establishment of his health in her letter of the 21st ult. causes my being so much surprized at its happening thus suddenly. And as every trifling circumstance increases the perturbation of thought upon such occasions; so did my happening to be sealing up a letter of congratulation and directing it to Lady Betty Smithson upon the birth of a son, just as the post-letters and news-papers were brought in, which I chanced to cast my eye upon, and immediately saw the article, which rather demanded condolence than congratulation from me; and would have made my letter very unwelcome, and the more improper as she lies-in, and that possibly Sir Hugh (now Earl of Northumberland) might not have chose she should receive any, lest they might move her passions in her present circumstances. This *faux-pas* however I escaped, and threw my letter in the fire, with one I had intended for the Duchess; wherein I promised to send her the Ode you honoured me with after your illness; and introduced your intention of getting acquainted with Mr. Lindsey the Duke's chaplain; which I expressed in such a manner, as to make her understand that you meant it as a step towards an introduction to Her Grace: But what avails
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it now? "*L'homme propose et Dieu dispose*," as the French Proverb says.

Outing got to Town on Monday sevensnight, in thunder, lightning, and in rain, and was welcomed by an earthquake the Thursday after.

The eldest Miss Meredith is to be married, the 23d instant, to Mr. Banks of Winstanley in Lancashire, her relation, (a second-cousin to the Duke of Somerset) whose estate is 2,300*l.* per annum: but, far above all, is a man of strict honour, benevolence, and good nature, and hospitable to the greatest degree; and his proposals to her, generous to as great a one. Had it not been for this event, Mr. Meredith would be now here: he is with her in that country; the rest of the family are at London. I had a letter from him upon the occasion, which shews his joy; and I will impart it to you when I see you and the roses appear together in my Shrubbery: for you know they take it ill you have never yet visited them. The humble violet would be still more glad to receive you; but scarcely dares propose it.

I am almost angry at Lord Stamford for visiting your Walks at such an unseasonable time: it was quite wrong-headed; but I hope he and
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his Lady will see them in summer. Do they live near you? I wish I could meet her there. She is a woman of excellent sense, and a great admirer of the beauties of nature; which she will see to the best advantage in your environs.—I agree with you as to the wreath round the French-Horn; and have bespoke it.

You are so far from being censorious, as to Mr. Miller's place, that your description gives me an infinitely more advantageous idea of it, than any I had conceived before from what others had said to me of it. Undoubtedly advantages might be taken from the view he has on the spot where Edgehill battle was fought; but the memorandums raised there must proceed from a genius something more sublime than that which seems merely turned to Gothic architecture. Many a man can sketch out a bow-window or heavy castle, who is unacquainted with the beauties of a genteel urn: but many more people could do the one and the other more easily than dedicate it properly, and impress such ideas as the history and the place might suggest to those of a more refined though less mechanical genius than I conceive him to be of. You could easily assist him, if you thought it worth your while to give your advice;
yet

yet beware of advising him to remove remains of monuments, or even a single stone from the church-yard. The parsons would call it sacrilege, and cut up his woods as they did yours; perhaps pull down his *lofty* tower, and you would trepan him into this.

I have ended four sides before I was aware of it; but you will know it too well: and now I must add, that I do not yet know what to say about the inscription to the urn. Mr. Allen is vastly against its being in English; and I am also inclinable to give that up, unless it might be allowable to let the prose be so, and the motto Latin, as a quotation: but according to your letter, I find it is against rule, if rules there be in *Urinary*.—I liked your first thought; and the motto you pitch upon, viz. *Postquam*, &c. and have no fault to find with it now, but that it gives an idea of Mr. Somerville, merely as a poet. Is it impossible to put the intended English inscription, or at least what is adequate to it, into Latin within the wreath, retaining also the abovementioned motto? I am sure you could do it well; and verily believe you would be glad to do it for the sake of your deceased Friend, and of

Your faithful living one,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

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Tell me whether Mr. Aris gets your Paper for you, and if he has good pens.—Last Friday Mr. Hall lay here, and begged his compliments to you. He had been above three weeks together at Harborough.

LETTER XLV.

SIR,

February 25th, 1749-50.

BY the inclosed, you will find the Urn is finished; and I am to fix a day for sending my team for it. The inscription being undetermined, stops me: for I think it would be better done at Warwick than it can be by the fools at Henley; and I would order it so, as to give them only one day to write it, and send for it the next.—By my last letter to you, I mentioned the inscription's being in Latin; and hoped you would think of something which might transmit to posterity an idea of Mr. Somerville in his private character, as well as you have shewn his capacity as a poet, by the Latin motto you proposed, and by the emblematical ornament on the pedestal, as Author of the *Chace*, and as a lover of hunting.

I hoped

192 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

I hoped to have heard from you last Thursday when the farmers returned from Birmingham; but had not that pleasure. I wish you could be here at the erecting this said urn. It will not however be long (at least so I hope) ere you pour libations over it to the memory of our deceased friend.—The violets are almost faded, the syringa is ready to blow, the rooks build their nests, and every thing speaks approaching spring, except the more than common winds, which are insupportable to my ears, and destructive to many things of more consequence.

Sir Peter Soame, Mr Allen, and Mr. Hall, passed a few days with me last week, and desired their compliments to you. All of them have left me to solitude.

If you write an answer to this very soon, you will oblige

Your sincere and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

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LETTER XLVI.

SIR,

Barrells, March 14th, 1749-50.

NOT having seen Mr. Allen since I received yours, I defer an answer to the query about the inscription. I am not a proper person to decide; but am inclinable to the alteration you mention, as it will take away the objection to the two motto's proposed coming together.—The urn was erected this morning, and now makes a good figure under its canopy of oak. If the weather continues dry, it will be fit to be painted in a fortnight: and the man who set it up will come at the same time to inscribe it. The letters are to be carved in the stone, and then blacked. Collins, who made it, does all Lord Brook's and Mr. Wise's work; and his foreman appears to be a good workman. The French-horn, wreathed with laurel, was done by the best stone-carver in Warwick. All this is good.—Now for the bad. First of all, the shaft is not all in one piece. I asked the man the reason, and he protests he could not get a stone of that size in Warwick: that he tried every quarry, and went purposely to the principal one; but in vain. So there are two pieces of five inches each, one above, the other

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below

below the wreath, which hangs on a hoop not suspended by a riband. The next misfortune is owing to a mercenary, ill-natured rascal, who is a weekly carrier from Henley to Warwick; by whom I sent a letter last Saturday to Mr. Hands, to say that I would send my team for the vase and pedestal on Monday: but, if Mr. Collins did not choose that day, desired he would name another. Mr. Hands was not at home; but his people sent the fellow to Mr. Collins, who told him by word of mouth, that the team must not come till Wednesday; for the things could not be sent safely before: which message the rascal never brought, nor ever mentioned to my servants, though he saw four of them on Sunday at Henley, and spoke to two of them. If it had been wrote down, he would have brought it, and demanded Three-pence at least for it; but as it was verbal, he did not think it worth delivering. So when the team got to Warwick on Monday, Mr. Hands swore; Mr. Collins fretted: both said the urn would be damaged; for they had bespoke cases of deal for every distinct part, and but one case was made; yet to send the waggon back empty they did not dare: so, in short, they packed it all up as carefully as they could.

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But the roads being very rough and bad, they with difficulty got home by One in the morning; the mouth of the French-horn struck off, and two stones broke off the lower plinth, and a small notch on the urn, and one on the cap of it, but trifling. The foreman and another man came in the morning and mended the two stones very well (as I had some of the same stone in the rough); and have put the mouth of the French-horn on again (for luckily it was not lost); and they say it is as strong as ever, and the paint will hide entirely the piecing.

I was very well entertained on Sunday evening, and on Monday till Five in the evening, with Mr. Smith's company. He brought me the Prints I had subscribed to. I also subscribed to four, which he intends to put out; and I bought of him four others, and also the eight Derbyshire Views; and he gave me one of Chatsworth; and would have given me a whole sett, if I would have accepted it. Mr. Hall saw him here, and has subscribed to his new sett. He promises me the little book with Virgil's Grove, at the time he delivers the others.—Would but the Green Book come too, I should be completely happy!—We talked much of you. He is charmed with

your taste, and with the Leasowes; and would be more charmed with you, if you would have shewn him any of your writings: but he says you used him ill in that point; for he has seen only what is in print. He got up at Seven, and walked all over this place; and again with me, when I arose. He commends it more than I think it deserves. He agrees with you entirely in admiring the amphitheatre of wooded hills that we see from the windows, and the situation of the Hermitage; which he thinks preferable to any in England. He laments my want of water; but thinks I might find springs (as indeed most people do). He liked the shell-urns, and the situation for the new one; as also the aspect of the kitchen-garden, and the pond and oak-tree; and agrees to moving the pales, so as to guide one to the Shrubby. The gloominess of the night shewed the Long Walk to advantage, with the moon just seen through the trees on Sunday, when he came by my coach-side from Henley; and he was delighted with the Gothic arch they form: but he is against planting the Service-Walk bank with flowers, or doing any thing to it; thinking its roughness is a good contrast to divide the Shrubby from the Coppice, which is also a kind of shrubby.

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shrubbery. He is also against my painting the niche where Venus is: for he says she is supposed to have been bathing, and to crouch herself in that manner, upon the approach of somebody, by way of hiding herself: and he would have the niche adorned with moss, &c. like some bathing place in a remote corner; and (he says) some bits of looking-glass among it to reflect what is to be seen, and also to give a watery look at a distance, will have a good effect from the Hall-door. He is much for the pediment; to which my only objection is the price. He is much pleased with the place where you have set your urn; but thinks, as you do, that it looks too small from where it is most seen.—I have begun the Ha! Ha! across the Service Walk; and the urn is seen from every place, Shrubbery, Terrace, Bowling-green, Long Walk, and the End of the Kitchen-garden; which is to be taken in.

I send you half the jessamine-water I have left; and will write to ask Mrs. Wymondesfold, if it is to be bought at London.

I inclose Mr. Meredith's two last letters. I hope you will meet him here; and that we shall pour libations together over Mr. Somervile's urn. But will you not come be-

sides, for a day or two, to see the inscription wrote? It would be very satisfactory, as well as pleasing to, Sir,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Pray send me Lord Lovat's Trial, and I will send you back Socrates's Life.

Whether you intended it or no, my curiosity is excited, and I must see the Ode to our Duchess; and hope it will not be improper to shew it her ere long.

L E T T E R XLVII.

SIR, Barrells, April 25th, 1750.

THAT the interruption to our correspondence should happen on my side, I blush at, though I well know it was not my fault. I wish you could know it as well; for you could not then blame me. But if you are inclined to blame me, pray consider that I have been sufficiently punished already, by being deprived of your letters, which I greatly esteem. I must have been my own enemy,

had

had I deprived myself of them willingly. The truth is, that when your last letter came, I had company, who staid a week (Sir Peter Soame, the Consul of Ostend, and Mr. Allen); and you know I have nobody to assist me in doing the honours of my house. At that juncture of time I received the news of Lady Bolingbroke's death; of my Brother's vast affliction for her, and of his own indisposition: All which obliged me to send a servant express to London, and to offer to go myself; which if my brother had accepted, I would have set out immediately: so that I had the journey in some measure to prepare for, and a great many letters to write by the messenger I sent; since whose return an accident happened among my domestics, which shocked me, and caused me a good deal of trouble and thought. Diabolical weather, added to all this, lowered my spirits yet more, and solitude contributed to my dulness. Judge then, Sir, whether I was fit to write to you; I, who in my brightest moments am unequal to the task.

I see with pleasure the advancement of Spring; but though its progress has been quick, there are few flowers, except the lilac: the woodbine begins to shew itself, and the

sweet-briar is fragrant : but I fear there is not quite stability enough in the weather, nor variety enough in the Shrubbery to invite you as yet ; but there will be ere long. The Coppice has the advantage at present ; for Nature has embroidered it thick with all kinds of wild flowers. The Hermitage looks ruinous, the roof being pulled to pieces, in order to have it thatched ; without which I shall never keep the wet out : but it shall be covered speedily. I have not yet had time to fill up the Walk, which you know I had ungravelled ; nor to ungravel the middle one, as you advised : but it shall be done. As to the urn, I told you it was erected : if dry weather continues, I will have it painted next week. As the motto Mr. Allen chose, and that you had chose, cannot, in your opinion, be on each side the same plinth ; and as neither of them singly take in both the moral and the poetical character of Mr. Somerville, nor my friendship, I searched Francis's Horace, with a view to find *one* only, that should express in some measure the whole ; and Mr. John Reynolds happening to come in, looked over it with me, and we both hit upon a short one, which to my thinking answers the intent, and will not oblige me to write any other

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other on the sides. As the forepart of the pedestal only is adorned with carving, I think it is best to have no writing but on the front. The motto is

“Debita sparges lacrymâ favillam
Vatis amici.”

This upon the plinth; and under it, on the pedestal, over the wreath, Mr. SOMERVILLE's name in Latin, and ^{H. L.}_{P.} and at bottom, the date (not of this year, but) of the year he died, because of the word *Favillam*.—I do not imagine *Author of the Cbace* can be put agreeably into Latin; and I confess it appears to me that the emblematical *born wreathed with laurel* will suffice to put all who knew him in mind of that poetical performance, which is so well known, without any explanation by words.—I shall be glad if you happen to think as I do.

I am sensible of the merit of the *fallow-tree*; but must not aim at having any in the places where I wish them, for want of water. My stiff soil can never do.—I am sorry your Grove will not be well pictured by Smith: Had I known it, I should have been so angry, that I should have abated of my generosity to him.—
There

There is no keeping the people out of the Service Walk: they come through the neighbouring Coppice into the Lane, and from thence over my hedge that is on the bank, which they have broke down in forty places, and so into the Service Walk, and away for Henley, &c.

Seeing the green leaves does not revive me more than the hopes you give me of seeing the Green Book: but as I am insatiable in my desires of seeing your performances in all the Sister Arts, I shall not without regret give up the illuminated Decorations you shewed me a specimen of.—I do not think the poetical prose (which is the style of Fenelon's *Telemachus*) is at all the common style of French novels; which is, for the most part, very good; especially *Mariveaux's*, *Crebillon's*, and others.

A new comedy is acted at Paris, which I send you to read, as it is not in verse, and as it ridicules justly an Ignorant Pedant; which I dare say you think (as I do) deserves the highest ridicule; as indeed every thing does that affects to be what it is not, and hypocritically endeavours to impose upon the world, as *Tartuffe* in Moliere's Plays; and many other characters that are falsely assumed and well satirized by the French Comedy-writers.—I return your *Life of Socrates*; which I am told

'Squire

Squire C—r has taken out of the Lives of the Philosophers, *though he detests a plagiarist.*

Pray return good for evil, and write soon.—I will let you know when I know it myself, when Mr. Meredith will be here.—Now, Sir, (as the Irish gentleman wrote word to his son) pray take care you do not break this seal in opening my letter.

Your most faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER XLVIII.

SIR,

Sunday, 13th, 1750.

IMAGINE you receive this from the Elysian Shades, where it is next to a miracle but I had been, instead of writing to you from my parlour; which act is contrary to the rules of chirurgery, and is full as much as I can execute in this scrawling fashion. But I was resolved to attempt for the first time what most people would have been unable to perform in six months: whereas it will not be a fortnight till to-morrow morning, since I had a fall in my chamber, in getting out of bed: which, by the circumstances of it, must have proved

proved fatal, had I not been reserved by Fate for some other end, which I am as yet a stranger to. The goodness of my constitution prevented any humour falling to the parts affected, and I had very little fever. Young Mr. Holyoak the Surgeon has proceeded in so skilful, and yet so precipitate a manner, that my plaisters are already reduced from eight or nine to two only: one over my eye, which will perhaps be scarred, and one just above my knee, where *the loss of substance* (as they call it) makes it longer in curing. *New flesh* must grow there, and *new skin* on my face: but he has treated me in the French way, and used no lenitives, nor kept my eye bound up longer than till it could open. I have been tractable and in spirits; and am now allowed to go once in the middle of the day to the Hermitage; where I hope to receive you about *Ascension Week*: for I fear several of the flowering-shrubs will be gone off if you defer it longer, and I long to have you see it in full bloom.

The oaks are quite green here; and the urn is painted, and the motto and whole inscription were carved the day before I received your letter (which did not come till Friday, though it was wrote on Sunday);

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day); and I did not know how to detain the stone-carver, who came purposely from Warwick. — I have not seen Mr. Allen or Mr. Hall to shew your motto's to; but will do so the first opportunity. In the mean time, let me beg you to make use of the first (meaning your own English one), which I am charmed with; and think I can answer that our friend Mr. Somerville will be so, if any intelligent spirit is allowed to advise him of it. — Adieu. My eye can no more. You have a friend more than you was like to have a fortnight ago; and whom you will ever find

Faithfully yours,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Why don't I understand the beauties of Latin? or why have I not somebody to point them to me? I guess at the sense of one of your motto's, which seems to express what I dare say you feel; and is a kind compliment to him, beginning, *Non tam illius famæ* — But I am as impertinent to offer to speak, as a parrot would be that had not been taught.

LETTER

L E T T E R XLIX.

SIR,

Barrells, June 8th, at Night, 1750.

THIS letter goes by some colliers belonging to Halesowen, who pretend to be well acquainted with the Leasowes. I hope it will reach you; which I much fear my last did not, as I wrote it near three weeks ago, to acquaint you of a very terrible fall which I had had; and to desire your company here the *Ascension Week*, lest the blossoms of the Shrubbery should be gone if you deferred your visit: since which time I have daily expected you; and the flowers have hastened more than usual to display their beauties, which are consequently nearer decay: so that I hope you will not postpone the visit you promised to my garden, till it is stripped of its ornaments. As to your visit to me, it is agreeable in every season; and I remember with gratitude, that you have given me your company, when every body less friendly was afraid to peep out of their door.—I would have returned you the inscriptions directly after my letter, had I not supposed you would be here before they could

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get to you. I never have seen Mr. Allen but once since I received them, and that in a hurry. Mr. Hall I have seen twice, and he explained most of them in English, and seemed to like them well; but was both times in a hurry also: so that I could not possibly form, from their translation, a judgment which of the Latin ones I should prefer; neither am I capable of it otherwise; but am almost sure I shall approve that which you fix upon. This is owing to my vanity I confess, which makes me believe that my judgment will tally with yours: for if it did not, my sincerity would force me to own it, as it obliges me now to assure you, that I am, Sir,

Your most faithful

and obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I sent you the impressions of the two seals in my last.

LETTER

L E T T E R L.

SIR,

Barrells, June 30th, 1750.

HAD I not expected your servant to come for the geese, I should have wrote by the usual conveyance, to thank you for your last agreeable and kind visit. I am glad you liked the road by which you returned home. It is in part the same as Outing and I went once to the Leasowes : but if a vehicle (that is not for the waggon track) could go all the way you rode, it would bring us much nearer together than we are : however, your kind invitation to me to stay three or four days with you obviates all objections concerning length of way : therefore, since you will be troubled with my company, you may depend upon it in July ; and as early as I possibly can in that month. I dare not name a day yet, for fear of disappointment, especially as my hay-making is not begun ; but I could wish to go about the 17th.—As you are building and altering, the accommodation may not be in the order you would wish it ; but you may depend upon my being exceeding well pleased with it : ceremony is no more my taste than it is yours. I

am

am glad the Duchess and her train behaved without any shew of it; when they visited you and your environs; with which I make no doubt but they were pleased. I love Colonel Lyttelton for wanting to give you their shell-urn, which would have a good effect on many spots of the Leasowes; and is I think very ill placed in their garden. I hope Miss Lyttelton will get you the small statue and the old Abbey-windows; which Abbey (with your permission) I intend to visit; as also Lord Dudley's Green-House.

Mr. Hall came here Yesterday, and is this moment returned to Harborough; but left his compliments to you in charge with me; and says he will not fail to visit you some afternoon: but I believe his visit will scarcely be confined to so short a space of time.—Nanny is highly pleased that she is to go with me to the Leasowes: perhaps Mr. Hall may meet me there; and that will be all my train the first visit. As to the second, Mr. and Mrs. Wymondesfold will I hope be here, and Mrs. Davies, who is to spend the summer in the country with them. Colonel Hildesley (a relation of mine) talks also of coming. If you let us go to the Leasowes, I propose lying at Birmingham; that, we may stay the later with you.—You see

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how

how ready I am to accept of invitations which promise me so much pleasure as that of your company in your beautiful Walks : so that you would do well to be cautious how you lay such temptations in my way, lest I should cause you to repent, by troubling you too often.—I hope the Bishop and the Baronet will treat the Parson as his usage in regard to you deserves.

I thank you sincerely for your advice with respect to my improvements here ; and am sensible all the things you mention are wanting. I had already mentioned to a carpenter my intention of having some garden-skreens made ; which will be deferred no longer than till the wood is thought to be sufficiently seasoned.—The day after you left me, I finished the apartment of the urn, all but turfing ; that shall be done when the sky pleases to pour forth showers to moisten the earth : but for that I must not pray till my hay is in. — I have turned the Path in the Coppice towards the Bank, where a seat is proposed above the Pit ; and have filled up the place, where we did turn in before, with trees, and have put the white bench, which did stand on the Bank, into the corner ; from whence one has a view of Skiltz, and the urn looks also well from it. I have
also

also made another opening in the Long Walk, and am thinning the branches of the trees that lead to the Old Orchard; so that I now discover three little edifices, besides Oldborough Church, through the trees.

I return thanks for Swift's Works. The fertility of his imagination cannot tire. I send you the Conquest of Mexico, in French; and think it entertaining. I also send Voltaire's Tragedies, that you may read his *Alzire* before I see you; and I will put Mr. Somerville's Translation of it in my pocket, to read with you at the Leasowes.—Your stile is always pleasing to me, whether you write at different periods, or otherwise. I confess, this last way, which makes a little journal, is the more agreeable, because it imitates conversation, and makes one fancy one's self upon the place, and in the company described.—You could not, Sir, have said any thing more flattering to me, than that *there is a resemblance between my imagination and yours*. It would be too vain in me to own that I think so; but I may say with truth, that there is a great similitude in our way of life, and our solitary amusements; and *that* may also cause a resemblance in our turn of thought. Whenever mine tallies with yours, I shall conclude I am right, and be

proud of it. For example, I am as pleased as you are to have people of taste see my improvements here, and take a pleasure in hearing them commended; and am glad when Chance sends such persons here: and my friendship for you makes me also glad to hear when they go to the Leasowes: but I should not like to have it a shew for the Public in general, as Lord Cobham's; of which every body tires.—Your neighbourhood to Hagley will often cause you to have good company drop in at the Leasowes; and those who have once seen it, will wish to see it often: nor do the beauties of Hagley in the least obscure those of your place. Proceed, Sir, in your schemes, which will diffuse pleasure around you, as well as give pleasure to yourself. But I would not have you (nor would I myself, though we were ever so rich) execute our schemes all at once: for I think there is more joy in forming the plan and seeing it grow by degrees towards perfection, than there is in seeing it perfect.

I send you a Goose, a Gander, a Mallard, two Ducks, and a rumpled Egg-Shell. This rural tribute Barrells humbly pays to its Lord *the Leasowes*; where by the care of good Mrs. Arnold the fowl cannot fail to prosper.—

That

LETTERS. 213

That you may do so in all your undertakings,
is the ardent wish of, Sir,

Your much obliged servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I don't like the account you give of your
health: Pray give me a better next week.

LETTER LI.

SIR,

Barrells, August 2d, 1750.

THE bearer (Mr. Moore of Warwick,
Plasterer) is going to Sir Thomas
Lyttelton's, for whom he has done a great
deal of stucco-work; and is to do more. He
also did the inside of Lord Archer's summer-
house, and of mine, when he worked for
Mr. Wright: but he is now set up for himself;
and has mended my figure of Milton so well,
(though it was broke in a thousand pieces, and
a hand and arm lost) that I shall employ him
further. As you will have stucco-work
to do probably, when you finish your two
rooms, I thought you might not dislike my

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recom-

recommending him to you, especially as his working often so near you as Hagley may be a conveniency. He also works for Lord Broke, Mr. Wise, &c. and by that means has an opportunity of seeing variety of tastes. He is desirous of seeing the Leasowes, and of offering you his service: so that I have wrote this letter to oblige him; as also to desire you will let him see your white Bust of Pope; for I have a mind to have Lord Bolingbroke's painted the same. He is to stucco the outside of my Summer-house in March: in the mean time the mason shall white-wash it. One skreen is made and the cistern is taken off the Green-house.

Mr. Outing is still waiting in London for Lord Luxborough, who was to be there as to-day; and I wait here for Outing and a lawyer; as also for Mrs. Wymondesfold and Mrs. Davies, with whom I hope to see the Leasowes.—Mr. Meredith has been here, and Mr. Smith, with Price: as also Sir Peter Soame, Parson Allen, and Mr. Hall; so that my house was full. They all enquired after you. I had also Lord Archer one day, and Mr. Chambers and Mrs. Kendall another; and am to have Mr. and Mrs. Chester, and Mr. Bromley,

ley, to-morrow : but the weather is a great draw-back to the pleasure of company.

I am at all seasons, with equal truth, Sir,

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Pardon blots, for the man is in haste.

LETTER LII.

SIR,

Barrells, Monday, August 13th, 1750.

MR. Williams appears in my parlour very opportunely, as I wanted a conveyance for my answer to the letter you last favoured me with ; and he tells me he intends waiting upon you the end of this week. I desired him not to forget to look at your Bust of Pope ; hoping he may be able to paint mine of my Brother Bolingbroke after the same manner. I envy him the pleasure he will have at the Leafowes, whilst I am chained down here in (hitherto fruitless) expectation of Mr. Outing and the Lawyer Mr. Woolfe, who is to come with him : and when I shall be released God only knows ; as Lord Luxborough

is the cause of the delay.—I will give you previous notice when I find myself able to go to the Leasowes.

I am sorry, for Mr. Moore's sake, that you was pre-engaged to another operator in stucco; but hope, for yours, that he will do as well as Moore; but do not know Crosbie.

I beg my compliments to my Lord of Dudley: and as to your Parson, he cannot expose himself more in his pulpit than he did out of it, when he took advantage of your absence to indulge his ill-natured disposition by preventing you from executing the pleasing scheme your good taste had suggested to you, and which would have heightened the beauties of your place. Had he one of his own that could vye with the scenery of yours, it might have made envy an *excuse* (if it is an allowable one) for what he did, which, without it, is sheer malice as ever any of *bell's* own inhabitants was capable of.

Mr. Williams carries my History of Barbadoes to Aris to bind, and with it the sheet of writing-paper for a sample.

I was sorry to see Mr. Meredith's name used in the strange letter the Clergyman wrote to one Mr. Webb, about the 10th of June;

June; and for which the latter is taken up: but Mr. Meredith was not at the meeting.

Mr. Williams waits, so I must cease writing when I have desired a favour of you in behalf of Mr. William Holyoak, Apothecary, second son to Parson Holyoak, who with his wife, (whom I believe you have seen here) is at Birmingham in lodgings, with an intention of setting up there. He served his time with Mr. Stephens (his father-in-law) at Worcester; but, upon some disagreement about family affairs, chose to quit that town, though he was set up there, and might have had very good business. Doctor Mackenzie has told me often that he does not know a better apothecary any where than Mr. Holyoak; and Dr. Attwood recommends him greatly:—and his family hope you will be so good as to speak to Dr. Evats in his favour; which would much oblige them, as well as, Sir,

Your faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER

418 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S;

L E T T E R LIII.

SIR,

Barrells, Augnst 31st, 1750, Friday.

AS this letter is intended to set out with a load of my wheat at Twelve o'clock, I hope the diligent Mrs. Scudamore will find it at the Posthouse when she calls for letters To-morrow morning. It will carry you neither agreeable news nor sprightly thoughts from me, as I am an invalid, though upon the recovery. I should at least have imparted my complaints to you before, but that my spirits flagged, and my hand faltered as much as you would have perceived my tongue to do, had you been here; and is not now very steady, though much better since Monday evening; when I insisted upon being let blood in spite of the advice of the Galenical gentlemen, who feared it would deject my spirits yet more: but as their advice was mechanical, I thought *I* could advise better; because *I* felt, and *they* only suggested. I proved in the right: bleeding relieved me. The first nine ounces were black as ink; the tenth was good blood; and no sooner had I begun to bleed, but I felt easier, and have been mending ever since;

since, and have been able to go once my usual tour round my Coppice, &c. Before that operation, my fever never intermitted; and I can scarcely say it remitted. The *immediate* cause of it is supposed to proceed from the anguish I felt by the most uncommon sting of a wasp, which perhaps you ever heard of: it stung a tendon on the outside of my arm near the elbow, on the 17th instant; on the 18th, it was swelled to my fingers ends, and by night had infected the blood so, that the inside, at the bend of the arm (where lies a vein, an artery and a tendon) was inflamed so greatly, that it obliged me to send for my surgeon. He also found the arm no less hard (though much less beautiful) than that of Venus in her Shrine in my Walk; insomuch that he feared it would imposthume, and has prevented it only by hot fomentations, &c. &c. and cooling physic; and it was kept in a sling above a week. The same day this misfortune happened, I buried my trusty servant James, who had lived with me twenty-two years; and was incorruptible where my interest was concerned. He died the 15th. On the 16th, I received the news of poor Mr. Hall's having broke his arm, just below the shoulder, by a fall from his horse, in riding only

only two miles from Rugby to Sir Edward Boughton's; where he still lies. And as (thank God) I feel for my friends full as much as for myself, this did not raise my spirits; and ever since all this, I have been, and still am, perplexed with various affairs, and accounts, which I would willingly set to rights; but am plagued with impediments of one kind or other, (especially from London), and cannot do it with the same readiness as if my poor man James was alive, as several things were under his direction. One ought to have a supernatural assistance to keep one's spirits up so as to unravel all these accounts, and manage things properly at such a juncture; and I look upon my uncommon desire of being blooded, as the whisper of some good Genii, since it has succeeded so well. I hope some of the same benevolent beings (if such there are) will waft *you* here, or *me* to the Leasowes, ere long, and let a calm succeed to a storm. At present I am alone; and must be a farmerefs too, unknowing as I am; and am entertained (by letter) only with the reproaches of some, who ought to commend me for the money I have laid out here: In spite of which I have pursued your scheme of joining my kitchen-garden to my Coppice, by removing the pali-

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fade, and making a drain and causeway across the Walk; which will be always dry.—I have had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Dewes three times lately; who is now at Mapleborough-Green for change of air for her children. It only serves to make me regret her not continuing at that house of her husband's; for Wellsbourn is almost too far for a visit. She is very agreeable in conversation, and shews all that politeness, delicacy, softness, and grace, which one distinguishes in her uncle Lord Lansdown's Poems; and which I have so often observed in him, having been personally acquainted with him.—You, Sir, have also had an agreeable Lady at your house, who has the further advantage of youth and beauty; I mean the Countess of Aylesbury, whose charms and whose conduct have always been equally admired by those I have heard speak of her. I have been told she was a lover of retirement in her old Lord's time: I do not know what she may be in her young Colonel's. She is, you know, daughter to General Campbell, and to Miss Bellandine, who was so celebrated when Maid of Honour to Queen Caroline. It is no wonder then she is pleasing.

I could

Wednesday, September 5th.

I could not sell my wheat the day I intended; so have not sent to Birmingham, and could not convey a letter to you till now.—I am (thank God) perfectly recovered of my fever.—I expect Outing very soon, and, I hope, Mrs. Wymondesfold and Mrs. Davies.—Mr. Hall is, I hear, expected home to-morrow. He was advised not to trust to a chaise, lest a jolt should hurt or even break his arm again; so he proposed walking from Sir Edward Boughton's to Warwick to-day, and to-morrow to Henley. I sent him word by Sadler Ward, that if he found himself too much tired to-day to proceed, he might send for my chaise to Warwick, unless he preferred Parson Adams's way of travelling on foot; and hoped in that case he would wear his gown and cassock on the road.

Parson Holyoak begs his compliments, and thanks you for your kind intentions concerning his Son.

SECOND LETTER.

I tore the inclosed antique impression off a letter I received. Alas! I am ashamed to tell that the said seal is spoiled by my fault.

I am

I am assured that the paper carvings are quite as beautiful, and more durable, than either wood or stucco; and for ceilings infinitely preferable, especially as they may be moved, being only fastened up with tacks. They adorn chimnies and indeed whole rooms with them, and make picture-frames of them. The paper is boiled to mash and pounded a vast while, then it is put into moulds of any form;—but farther I know not; only that when it is tacked up, you either paint it white, or gild it, as you would do wood. Several Ladies take the trouble of making this themselves: but it is to be bought in single ornaments, so much a piece, or a dozen. So Lord Foley's Chapel-ceiling was bought.

I want you to invent something for me to make, either within or without doors, of those beautiful Bristol stones of all colours, which Mr. Hall brought me. The second cargo he sent are sunk, with the barge, near Tewkesbury; but it is to be hoped they will be got up.—Lord Hallifax is cutting off part of a gallery with four pillars of these stones, which will cost him 500*l.* each; and fixes branches for candles in them, to reflect the light.

Do not take it unkind that I do not go to the
Leasowes

Leafowes immediately: my reason for choosing not to stir as yet, you would approve; for I have information that Lord Lux—— and his Son and Daughter-in-law are coming to Edston; and I shall be curious to know how the two latter will behave by me; and besides, I would keep garrison at Barrells: for I believe they have all three a longing eye towards it. Besides all this, I have hopes of seeing my brother Bolingbroke here: but do not mention it yet.—This being the true state of the case, I hope you will come (in case your Brother is recovered) and make me a visit before I make you one. My bees join with me in inviting you to my little Library, where they rejoice in their labour, and work abundantly. It is a situation that Virgil has not marked out for them; but I dare say, were he to inhabit this earth again, he would not fail to call in an army of these useful creatures to form a colony in his Study, where he would view their works, and fancy himself one of their fellow-citizens. Would it be amiss if every person in power was obliged to have this piece of furniture, not for their amusement only, as I have it, but for their instruction in the art of government? Be that as it will, it is really very entertaining to us Hermits.

LETTER

LETTER LIV.

SIR,

Sunday Night.

I IMAGINE some messenger has proved unjust to us; for you seem not to have had the list of disasters I wrote.—On Wednesday the 15th ult^o. (said I) poor James, my old trusty servant, died.—On the same day my friend Mr. Hall broke his arm;—on the next, I had the news of it;—on the next, James was buried,—and I was stung by a wasp or hornet on a tendon, in an unaccountable manner: the Surgeon feared it would imposthume: a fever succeeded, which was continued. Bleeding &c. &c. relieved me: then fell out a million of affairs, some not quite agreeable, others such as I was not used to intermeddle in when James was living.

To change the scene, Mr. and Mrs. Wymondesfold came to Stratford last Friday. I dined with them there; and we left Mrs. Davies with Mrs. Bartlet for the present: next day Mr. Hall *walked* home from Sir Edward Boughton's to Henley (thirty miles in two days). He is now here at supper; and though an invalid, is tolerably well. But three weeks

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is

is a very short time for rejoining a broken arm just below the shoulder.—Outing was to have been here yesterday; but is taken ill of St. Anthony's Fire: he hopes to be here next Saturday. I have a return of my fever to-day; and take wormwood-draughts; so that I must not venture to appoint a day (but Mr. and Mrs. Wymondesfold, who send their best compliments, will go with me to the Leaflowes); but will send a servant to let you know which day we shall go; which I wait for with impatience, and it shall be as soon as ever the fever leaves me. We will dine with you, and lie at Birmingham.

After this dull narrative, I can only thank you for your very agreeable letter, which is (as yours always are) very obliging, polite, and entertaining. Pardon me for not attempting to answer it elegantly: but believe me truly

Your most obliged
and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER

LETTER LV.

SIR,

Thursday Night.

THE first good night I have passed these last three weeks, was last night : and the first use I make of the return of my health is to acquaint you of it, and to appoint Monday next, (if agreeable to you) for Mr. and Mrs. Wyndesore and I to dine with you ; as also Outing, if his St. Anthony's Fire allows him to be here on Saturday. We propose going in the morning to the Leasowes, and lying at Birmingham (whither perhaps you will accompany us) ; and shall be glad if you approve of these schemes. Could we see Lord Dudley's Exoticks besides ? but no matter ; it is you we want to see, and your charming retreat.

As to my letter, it is not worth your reading ; and as I (who still live upon viper-broth) am not *joyous* enough to make it more worth perusing, I accompany it with one I received to-day from the Duchess of Somerset.—Were you at Mr. Miller's Ball in his Gothic Room ? He is sending to Birmingham for cannon-balls,

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and

228 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

and such like military store, to defend his Castle.

Pardon this scrawl of scrawls, and believe me

Yours faithfully,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Mr. and Mrs. Wymondefold's best compliments.—We pray for fair weather to be on Monday.

L E T T E R LVI.

SIR,

Barrells, November 28th, 1750.

THIS day I have ventured down stairs for the first time, and have no complaints at present but weakness, which wants to be assisted by a more serene sky, a better appetite, and more sound sleep; all which I wait for with tolerable patience. This step from my chamber to my parlour appears to me a step of consequence; and I write to acquaint you of it, as I am vain enough to believe it will give you pleasure; and also, as it is a duty incumbent upon me to return
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my earliest thanks to the friends who most interested themselves in my illness, and most wished for my recovery; which I cannot doubt but you did very sincerely, as you gave yourself the trouble to write, and send twice, though from so great a distance, at this season, and notwithstanding the illness of your trusty Tom; who is I hope quite free from his complaints. Dr. Wall of Worcester was my physician; and I think him a very ingenious man: he and Mr. Holyoak were obliged to be speedy, to prevent a mortification in the bowels; but after five or six days, I believe the danger of that was over. A slow fever has tormented me almost ever since: but as I am now determined to shake off all complaints, I must implore your assistance: for what can contribute so much to the recovery of the body as the entertainment of the mind (particularly where the spirits and nerves have been much affected)? And what can entertain mine so much as your agreeable conversation? I leave the consequence of this argument to be drawn by yourself; from whom I always expect what is generous and humane, without fear of being disappointed. I expect you then, as soon as your own affairs permit, to visit one, who is so lately returned from the Banks of

Q³⁷ Styx,
 Wall was born at Norwich so Worcester
 lived at Worcester & before & eventually
 became physician at Worcester. He was
 celebrated for his skill in painting
 and died at Bath 1776

Styx, that she remembers little of any thing that passed before she went there, only the friendship you gave her so many proofs of; and for which she will always retain due gratitude in spite of all the waters Lethe can produce. This is saying that you may depend, Sir, upon more sincerity than one commonly meets with at the end of a letter; therefore I will not adulterate mine with common-place compliments.—Adieu till we meet at Barrells, and let it be soon.

H. LUXBOROUGH,

The Doric Pediment is begun; and a little alteration I have made in my hall is completed, which will shew the intended pediment to some advantage within doors.

L E T T E R LVII.

S I R, Barrells, Twelfth-day, 1750.

TH ESE few lines are only to express my uneasiness at not receiving an answer to the letter I wrote you a month ago, to acquaint you of my recovery, and that I hoped

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to see you here, and to thank you for your kind enquiries when I was ill. The apprehension of your being ill yourself makes me write again; for Aris, whom I enquired of, sent me word he believed you was at the Leafowes.— I have only to add my sincere wishes for your health, happiness, and pleasure, both at this season and all others; and beg you will not cease to think me, as I really am, Sir,

Your sincere friend, and

most obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER LVIII.

SIR, Barrells, Monday, January 28th, 1750.

THE favour of a visit from you, at any season, but more particularly in this rigid one, demands my earliest thanks; and the little disorder you complained of here makes me anxious to hear of your perfect recovery, and of your good journey home: therefore I begin my enquiries this day, though probably it may not be in my power to send my letter

Q4

before

before Thursday, when some honest butcher or other may possibly convey it to Birmingham. But I was unwilling to defer even those few days writing; for my late illness and your journey into Berkshire have caused such a chasm in our correspondence, that I am impatient to have it filled up. I could wish a daily courier was to go between the Leafowes and Barrells: yet it is happy for you that the case is otherwise; for my desire to receive letters from you would certainly make me selfishly troublesome, by forcing mine upon you; which at best are not much worth reading, and can be no other than stupid, when want of conversation and of agreeable objects deprive me of every thing amusing, and furnish me with no ideas: no more ideas than the Pyramids of Egypt afforded to Dr. Perry; which he assured Lord Chesterfield were *none at all*.—*A propos* to his Lordship; he is not the author of the *Œconomy of Human Life*.

I was agreeably surprized yesterday with a visit from Dr. Wall, who dined with me, and returned to Worcester. He talked to me of a Poem that I am impatient to see: he had it in the manuscript, and has it also in print; but it was published for the Public but on
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Saturday last: the author is Mr. Cambridge, the gentleman who entertained the Prince and Princess of Wales so elegantly last summer at his Seat on the Severn; as you must have read in the News-papers. The title of the Poem is, I think, *The Scribleriad, an Heroic Poem*. The subject is the supposed travels and adventures of Scriblerus; of which Dr. Wall named no particulars but one, which was his being enamoured with a Princess, whom he meets in a Gothic Castle: and I imagine this Poem is not calculated to please Mr. Miller, and the rest of the Gothic gentlemen; for this Mr. Cambridge expresses a dislike to the introducing or reviving tastes and fashions that are inferior to the modern taste of our country. The Frontispiece to this Poem Dr. Wall presented Mr. Cambridge with: and as it is the Doctor's own drawing and inventing, I did not think it civil to ask the description of it; so I wait, till I can get the book, to judge of it; and should be glad to have your judgment of it, when you have seen and read it. He says the Poem is all finished: but I do not know whether this, which is published, is more than the first part.—We talked of the Leasowes: he wished to see it, and seemed to regret that
his

his business deprived him of the pleasure of going to see the places he should relish. If he has as great a relish for money as Dr. M——, the misfortune he complains of will be none to him: but I rather imagine him not to be of that excessive craving temper.

As one is still wishing for what one has not, I wish for fine weather, leaves on the trees, flowers in the Shrubbery, and all other the gay products of spring, and with them your company and Mr. Whistler's under my Double Oak. Am I not exorbitant in my wishes? Half these pleasures at a time might suffice, one would think; but I am so angry at being deprived of them, that I cannot be appeased without enjoying them all. In the mean time I am freezing by the fire-side, which scorches without warming; and my ink is as frozen as my hands and my ideas. Your genius, Sir, does not freeze so easily; therefore I hope, in spite of winter, you will employ it for the benefit of the Public, or at least for that of your friends, and not let your pen, ink, and paper remain useless. It is a crime, you know, to bury a talent.

When I receive a letter from the Duchess of Somerset, I will impart it to you, to make
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Your faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH,

LETTER LIX.

SIR, Barrells, February 13th, 1750-51.

AS the frost is gone, (the good effects of which change I feel in my health) I hope your ink is thawed, which I am persuaded has hitherto been froze; for I am sure your genius cannot freeze, and I believe your friendship to be as warm as that: therefore can impute your cold silence to nothing but the stagnation of your ink; but hope now some streams of it will flow this way, in return for those I sent you from my ink-bottle a fortnight ago. I ought perhaps to have waited till I heard from you, before I troubled you a second time; but I was impatient to send you the Draught I promised to send about to Warwick, for your satisfaction as well as my own. I believe you will think (as I do) five guineas

very dear: at least I think it too much to give for a glass-frame for such an humble edifice as mine. The larger Daught Mr. Hands sent me, and the small one Mr. Moore the stucco-man sent: whether they employed the same carver, I cannot tell. I find a slighter sort than either of the three will be three guineas. I imagine you could draw something genteler than either, which might come to less. The proposal for stuccoing my little passage makes it come also to more than I expected. Moore (who has lately been at London) talks to me of a sort of stucco-paper, which I had never heard of; and says Lord Foley has done his Chapel in Worcestershire with it (the ceiling at least). By his description, the paper is stamped so deep as to project considerably, and is very thick and strong; and the ornaments are all detached, and put on separately.—As suppose, for example, it were the pattern of a common stucco-paper, which is generally a mosaic formed by a rose in a kind of octagon: it seems, in this new way one of these roses is to be bought singly; so you have as many in number as the place requires, which are pasted up separately, and then gilt: the ornaments for the cornices are likewise in separate pieces, and, when finished, cannot, I suppose, be known

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from fretwork. The difficulty, and consequently the expence, must be in putting up these ornaments, which, as I understand, must be done by a man whom the Paper-seller sends on purpose from London: but perhaps your ingenuity might avoid that, if you could see any finished.

The Duchess of Somerset is going on (as she writes me word) with the Chapel she is making, which was a large Drawing-room. She gives 300*l.* for the three windows for it; which are stained glass, done by one Pries, a mosaic without figures, and of a Gothic form, and all the stucco in the same taste, and ornamented.—Her Grace says there is an inundation of new books. She commends Mr. Fielding's Enquiry into the Cause of the Increase of Street-Robberies: and she talks of a copy of Verses wrote in a Country Church-Yard; but supposes I have seen that, though not printed.—I wrote you word before, that Dr. Wall had dined with me, and recommended the Scribleriad:—and here I must end my scribble, for want of room.

Yours, &c.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

• Pray send back the Draughts.

LETTER

L E T T E R L X.

Barrells, Tuesday Afternoon, Feb. 26th, 1750-51.

SIR,

NOT one single line or word have I received from you since I had the pleasure of seeing you, except your letter of the 20th, which is imperfect to *me*, because it alludes to what you had *wrote* before, and imagined I had *read*. The loss of the shortest sentence of yours would be regretted by me; judge then how much I regret a letter which you tell me was very long. I envy those whose hands it has fallen into; and yet it is perhaps doing an injustice, and envying people who are not capable of relishing what they enjoy: for most probably it is some butcher's or farmer's clownish servant, who is possessed of this treasure, which he would gladly part with for half a pint of ale, and which I should think not too dear to retrieve with a hoghead of champagne: but fear it is irretrievable, and do not know where to enquire.

Mais voyez un peu la bizarrerie du Sort! voila cette lettre qui arrive précisément dans l'instant que je vous mande qu'elle est perdue: cela

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cela redouble le plaisir que me donne tout ce qui vient de vous. Mais en vérité, Monsieur, votre lettre est en elle-même trop bonne pour avoir besoin de cet assaisonnement ; ainsi je vous supplie de chercher à l'avenir des couriers un peu plus alertes : pour moi j'imagine que cette lettre tant attendue est venue sur le dos de quelque limaçon ; car il n'y a qu'un messager de cet espece qui ait pû mettre treize jours à venir de chez vous ici. Ah que cela fait languir ! et de plus, ces retardemens rompent le fil de la conversation qu'on tâche d'imiter par une correspondance régulière ; et puis comme tout change dans ce monde (et encore plus souvent en Angleterre qu'ailleurs) ce que l'on mande dans une lettre qui marche si lentement, ne se trouve plus le fait, lorsqu'on la reçoit : Par exemple, Monsieur, vous me parlez de la gelée, et je reçois cette nouvelle dans un orage de pluie ; ainsi du reste : il n'y a que de notre amitié dont j'ose répondre de la stabilité : j'aurois dû répondre seulement de la mienne, mais je veux me flatter que vous ne me dédirez pas, Monsieur, quand j'y joins la vôtre.

Vous avez voulu que je vous écrivisse en François, et je vous obéis d'abord, au dépens de la réputation que j'ai de posséder cette langue ; car vous direz sûrement, après avoir

lû ce que j'écris, qu'il n'y a rien de moins vrai que l'éloge qu'on me donne. Mais pour vous, Monsieur, c'est je crois de l'Arabe que vous m'écrivez ; je ne comprend rien à ces Messieurs et Dames les Glums, les Gawries, &c. car non seulement ce langage, et le livre où vous le prenez, me sont inconnus, mais je n'avois jamais ouï dire qu'on en eût donné un dans ce goût au Public ; et j'eusse encore moins deviné qu'il auroit été dédié à mon amie Madame de Northumberland. L'auteur ne me paroît pas trop délicat dans la comparaison qu'il fait de cette Comtesse à Made-moiselle la Gawry (ailée comme une chauve-fouris) : il faut espérer que son esprit a plus d'agréments que sa figure. Je veux me faire acheter cette piece extraordinaire ; en attendant je m'en vais lire le Scribleraid, qui a été aussi long-tems en voyage que votre lettre. Je lis ce qu'on imprime avec bien plus de plaisir, lorsque vous voulez bien m'en dire votre jugement ; c'est un bon guide pour empêcher le mien de s'égarer.—Voulez vous sçavoir pourquoi vous vous ennuyez plus qu'à l'ordinaire cet hyver ? C'est que vous n'écrivez point ; pas un petit mot de poésie ! donnez nous du moins quelque petit madrigal : ne foyez pas si paresseux, Monsieur, je vous en

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prie ; vous verrez que cela vous occupera, et vous aurez de plus le plaisir d'en faire à vos amis et amies, et d'être loué par tous les bons connoisseurs : n'en voilà-t-il pas assez pour vous faire prendre la plume ? vous, qui en sçavez faire si bon usage. A propos, mon petit livre verd où est-il ? mon Dieu ! comme il se fait attendre ! et ces jolies miniatures, que ne les puis-je revoir ! je vous promets, Monsieur, que vous aurez beau faire, vous ne les rattraperez pas comme l'autre fois ; dépêchez vous donc de me faire ce joli présent : Monsieur — ne se fait pas tant prier ; il imprime volontiers, et vous ne voulez ni composer, ni imprimer. Cela s'appelle cacher ses talens : en vérité, quand on en a comme vous, et qu'on ne s'en sert pas pour le profit des autres, cela mérite punition, autant que l'avarice d'un homme qui auroit des millions, et qui ne dépenseroit pas un sou. Si ma belle leçon avoit le bonheur de vous corriger, Monsieur, le Public m'en auroit une obligation sensible : en tout cas ne prenez pas en mauvais part mes petits conseils.

Votre dessein pour la bordure du miroir est fort joli ; et tout ce que vous en dites est fort vrai : mais en vérité le trou pour lequel ces ornemens se devoient faire ne les vaut pas.

Vous faites des complimens à Monsieur Hall ;

R

vous

vous ne sçavez donc pas qu'il y a un mois qu'il est à Bristol, avalant à longs traits de grands verres d'eau, parcequ'il son frere en a besoin, et qu'il n'en a point ; il m'écrit, et je reçois ses lettres le cinquieme jour, et les vôtres le treizieme : L'on vous croiroit aux Antipodes, si l'on jugeoit par vos couriers tardifs : j'ai envie d'établir une poste entre vos champs et les miens.— Que ne trainons-nous des pigeons à cet usage ? Mais dans ce pays barbare on les tueroit peut-être, et nous ne nous consolerions pas de nos pauvres colombes et de nos lettres sacrifiées.

Ce que vous dites de la *Bienfaisance* du théâtre François est fort vrai ; les meilleures choses se peuvent outrer, et cela empêche souvent des faillies que les auteurs n'oseroient mettre, et qui rendroient souvent leurs pieces plus agréables.—Je plains, comme vous, ces pauvres Méxiquains ; et je déteste ces conquérans, autant que les Chinois détestent les missionnaires.

Je vous félicite d'être délivré du jardinier de Hagley ; vous vous y promenez plus à votre aise, comme moi, depuis que j'ai chassé le mien : Qu'ils s'en aillent planter des choux en Acadie, s'ils veulent.

Happily for you, Sir, Mr. Scriblerus enters

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my chamber, and relieves you from more French *nothings*: for such one may call the things I say. I shall soon be like Dr. Perry, and have "no ideas at all;" for what should produce them? My tongue and ears have been useless a great while, and my eyes are employed ever upon the same objects, except when I read; and as I have had no *new* books of late, so have I no *new* ideas. *Je les attends (ces idées) à la première Hirondelle*: and in the mean time beg you will make much use of your pen whilst the weather prevents your making use of your legs; for when once you can range about your delightful walks, adieu Standish.

Present my compliments to your last new cascade, which I *heard*, but never *saw*; and assure her I will pay my respects next time before sun-set, and will make a long visit. The last was only leaving one's name at a door.

If any body finds this letter (which may be the case) at some ale-house between this and Birmingham, I fancy they will hang it up with the ornaments of their kitchen-chimney, and admire it as we do exotics; not for their beauty, but their oddness or irregularity; or, as some Ladies do their dogs, for their ugliness: but if it reaches you, I hope you will value it

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for

244 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

for its simplicity and sincerity, which speaks the friendship and the real esteem with which I am at all times, and in whatever language I speak it,
Sir,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Let me hear from you soon.—Keep the books as long as you please. If you care for French Letters, I can lend you Buffy Rabutin's; which will give you an idea of what is accounted a good style to imitate: for Voiture is stuffed with wit, but is too formal to please.

L E T T E R LXI.

SIR,

Equinox, past Midnight, 1750-51.

THE faithful Tom did not arrive here till late; and (contrary to custom) I was not alone, having ^xMr. and Mrs. Holyoak eating a barrel of oysters with me; after which we supped. They are just gone—It is twelve o'clock—I must go to bed *par ordre du médecin*, whether sick or well. Your man must return, as he says, in the morning; so my answer to yours must be deferred till I send my servant

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x The clergyman of the Parish

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to you with it; which shall be in a short time.

—I am obliged to you for liking my French letter. As to my *thinking* in French when I wrote it, I certainly did, and ever do when I write in that language; but hope you do not mean that I think with the same insincerity they are accused of, though you accuse me of their *excessive complaisance*; of which I am rather wanting than guilty.

I searched for the Green Book in your packet, and found only the Red Book, which I have not had time to open. The Ode to the Duchess I just read over, and saw enough of it to make me wish it finished and sent. The corrections will, I dare say, take very little time, therefore the task is short, and mine will be pleasing to send it to Her Grace. Percy Lodge should be distinguished, as she has distinguished herself by preferring it to grandeur. Were she to change, (which I dare say will not be the case) it would be no blame to the Poet, nor to the Friend.

The letter of yours, which lay so long, you had not directed, as usual, *To Mr. Williams, at Birmingham*; which caused perhaps the delay: the best way would be to direct to him, without mention of me, and inclose your letter to me in that cover; and if any reason prevents *that*,

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you

you might direct to Mr. Williams, &c. to be transmitted to me : for if my name is first, those stupid messengers, who are *our* only Mercuries, read no farther ; nor do they know what that means.—I am glad to find you design me a letter in French. Be assured that, in whatever language you write, you will equally oblige your scrawling, but sincere,

Humble and obliged servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R LXII.

SIR, A Barrells, ce Mercredi, 13 Mars, 1750-1.

PUISQUE vous êtes dans le goût de la prose Françoisé, je vous promets, Monsieur, que vous en aurez autant qu'il vous plaira de la mienne : mais je vous avertis par avance que vous la trouverez une très mauvaise marchandise ; et que vous la payerez trop cher avec votre bon Anglois, et votre bon sens. Mais enfin il faut vous servir à votre mode, et j'aurois grand tort de m'en plaindre : au contraire, comme le profit sera pour moi, je vous en suis aussi redevable que le seroit un trafiqueur à qui l'on donneroit des lingots d'or, en échange
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pour du clinquant.—Continuons donc ce commerce tant que vous voudrez, j'y tope de bon cœur.

Au reste, Monsieur, je me reproche mon impolitesse.—En premier lieu, je crois avoir manqué à remercier Monsieur votre Frere de son souvenir obligeant, en vous priant de vous charger de compliments pour lui de ma part ; mais lorsque minuit a sonné, l'on se croit dispensé des regles de la politesse. Ah que voila une mauvaise excuse !

Seconde impolitesse. Je ne vous ai rien répondu sur ce que vous m'avez demandé à l'égard du portrait de feu notre ami Monsieur Somerville : mais aussi vous pouvez répondre pour moi, puisque vous devez être persuadé que vous n'avez qu'à ordonner, et le portrait vous sera confié dans l'instant ; car je me fais toujours un grand plaisir de vous en faire, quelque petit qu'il soit. Je compte vous l'envoyer par un de mes gens avec votre petit livre rouge, lorsque je m'en serai bien amusée. Et lorsque j'irai chez vous, j'aurois presque envie d'y porter mon propre portrait fait le même jour que le sien, et dessiné par le même homme. Ce Monsieur, dont vous me parlez, voudroit bien peut-être se donner la peine d'en faire la copie. On dit qu'il y a beaucoup de res-

semblance, mais l'habillement gâte tout ; c'est celui de la Reine d'Ecosse où elle porte un chapeau pointu qui lui tombe sur le front et qui le lui cache. Pour changer cette coiffure, il faudroit que votre homme vit le dessus de mon propre front pour en faire son modèle, quelque mauvais que soit ce dit modèle !

Du reste de votre lettre qu'ai je encore à parler ? Oh ! vous me demandez mon opinion du *Scribleriad* ; en vérité il me plaît fort, et le poëme de Monsieur Whitehead aussi. Mais quand je dis *fort*, ce n'est pas que les sujets me plaisent ; je suis comme vous pour l'allégorie ; c'est ce qui me touche le moins en fait de vers. Je vous enverrai, si vous voulez, tous les six livres du *Scribleriad*, lorsqu'ils seront imprimés, car je les ai fait demander à Doddsley. Vous avez vû sans doute ces vers écrits dans une cimetière, dont notre Duchesse m'avoit parlé ; ils me plaisent beaucoup. — A propos de cette Dame, ne la privez pas, je vous en supplie, de cette ode que vous lui aviez destinée ; soyez plus content de vos ouvrages, et vous vous déterminerez d'abord ; vous trouverez même que vous serez approuvé d'elle et de tous les bons connoisseurs. Je l'ai relû vingt fois, et je ne m'en rassasie point : si j'y trouvois quelque chose qui ne me parut pas propre à lui être envoyé, je vous le dirois tout

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naïvement. Vous remarquez très bien qu'il seroit à propos de faire allusion aux environs de sa demeure, et que cela s'introduiroit tout naturellement dans l'endroit où vous avez mis cette marque † : et je trouve que vous feriez bien de changer ou de rayer les deux lignes que vous avez distingué par cette autre marque ● ; mais retenez, je vous prie, les deux lignes que vous avez écrites avec un crayon seulement ; elles sont selon moi, une fin fort juste. Je puis approuver mieux que je ne sçaurois critiquer : j'approuve, ou je désapprouve ordinairement en gros, car je ne me sens pas capable d'expliquer pourquoi un endroit me plait plus qu'un autre, lorsque je lis des vers, non plus que quand j'entends jouer une pièce de musique ; et cependant le hazard fait quelquefois que je trouve bon ce qui est bon, et mauvais ce qui est mauvais.

Just at this place of my letter, Captain Robinson comes in from Worcester to stay the rest of the week with me ; so I must defer sending my letter till the next,

L E T T E R

LETTER LXIII.

SIR,

Wednesday, March 20th, 1750-51.

THIS should go by my servant, accompanied by the Red Book, the Ode, and Mr. Somerville's Picture; but I cannot spare any body to go till the next week is over, as I send my coach, &c. to Warwick with our High Sheriff; upon which occasion plowing and sowing must stand still: but preparations for it go on this week.—Captain Robinson staid with me about four days; and it was a pleasure to me to converse with any body who could tell me what passes in the world; for I live so much out of it, that I am almost as ignorant as a Savage. He liked my urn to Mr. Somerville very well; and talking about motto's, he said that, if he ever erected an urn to a friend, he would use the following, which is in a copy of Verses of the Revd. Mr. Shipley's, and which he had not about him; but will send them me.—All that gentleman writes is Milronic,

“ ————— Oh worthy longest Days!

“ For thee shall flow the solitary Tear,

“ And thoughtful Friendship sadden o'er thy Urn.”

*Afterwards Bishop of St Asaph; then Lord
concludes some verses addressed by him to the
to the Memory of George Lewis Sanger
who died on his travels to Rome.*

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I think, if I may pretend to judge, that there are four very moving lines in the Epitaph which follows the Elegy wrote in a Country Church-yard: I mean the following;

- " Large was his Bounty, and his Soul sincere;
- " Heav'n did a Recompence as largely send:
- " He gave to Mis'ry all he had, a Tear;
- " He gain'd from Heav'n ('twas all he wish'd) a Friend."

I have been to-day all over my Gardens and Coppice, and find the former in very nice order, by the indefatigable care of my Scotch gardener; but the season has not favoured his labours: however, I believe you will find a great amendment in the appearance of it. The Coppice is just ready to produce the spontaneous gifts of Nature, which will adorn its banks most beautifully in less than a month's time: but you never will honour it with a visit in Spring, so that Flora murmurs at you yearly. I wish you would come about that time; and hope you would find Captain Robinson here, for he expects a field-officer to release him; at present he is commanding-officer, and therefore tied by the leg. I shewed him nothing of yours but your Autumn, which he likes vastly, both as to the turn of thought, and the versification; but joins with me in loving the
autumn

autumn season, notwithstanding you prefer all the others to it. I have had the greater reason to admire it, because I have generally visited the Leasowes about that time: but I propose my visit this year to be earlier, and before the borders of your streams are deprived of their flowery ornaments.—My Brother Bolingbroke has sent me, it seems, the most exquisite sorts of melon-seeds, and of lettuce.—Mr. Hall has got me seeds of the greatest curiosity of a flower which the world produces, if I can but raise it. The merchant shewed him one pod only, which is as big as a pine-apple, and perfumes a room even now it is not in flower. He has also got me a water-engine, made of *Lignumvitæ*, which will water my garden with much ease. We expect him home next Saturday.—The snow-drop, to which Mr. Whistler pays so genteel a compliment, I have also had given me, as double as a yellow rose. My gardener designs to raise some Spanish Broom from seed; and you may command what you please of it. So much for gardening.—This being a most stupid letter, here let it end, and free you from the trouble of reading any thing more than the assurances of my esteem and friendship, on which you may depend.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

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P. S. Outing goes to London next Monday, from Somerville's Aston, with the two Messrs. Reynolds and Sir Robert Cocks. Will. Reynolds is married to Mr. Durham's daughter, of the Paper-mills; and the Bride is to be left at Wooton.—I never saw any thing of Dr. Wall's drawing but his Frontispiece to Hervey's Meditations, which I did not like, and now this to the Scribleriad: but Captain Robinson says that the Doctor's Rooms are adorned with his own Works: but he did not say a great deal in commendation of them. *Mais le dessein n'est pas son métier; il faut donc lui laisser ses ouvrages en ce genre pour son propre amusement.*

LETTER LXIV.

SIR,

April 16.

YOUR apology for keeping Tom Jones is needless: I do, and shall do the same by you; and you may command any, or all my books for yourself and your friends, *sans cérémonie*. That upon Gardening I should be glad to see; and it may be useful to me in laying out the additional Shrubbery, as proposed;

posed; though I shall not embellish it with *Minerva* and *Pallas**, nor even with the goddess *Flora*, nor my little wood with *Pan*; nor have I a drop of water to admit of so much as one *Naiad*, though Mr. Jago, in his Pastoral, formerly bestowed some on me. With you, Sir, they will always dwell; you make their habitation so delightful. You are very good in instructing me how to amend mine, and to improve the limited and scanty beauties of my situation. Your mistake in calling the *Service-Walk* a *Lime-Walk* may prove a lucky hint: for why not make one of my Crooked Walks lead to my new Lime-Walk, which is planted with Hornbeam between, and so wind as to go behind it into the Lane which is planted with abeles, and so form a Serpentine through them to the Coppice, coming in somewhere at the farther end of it, or behind the Great Oak? In the mean time, I will fill the Gravel-Walk with shrubs, as you propose, and hide or take away the door that leads to the Coppice. Let me know if you comprehend my meaning. It will make the place private, and surprize more at the entrance.—I find I can take away the foot-road to Henley. This proposal would be

* Alluding to a blunder of Batty Langley's.

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I sent for a master-workman from Warwick ; and we have laid out the ground to receive the Pavilion. Regard is had to what you mention of the distance from the trees. There will be thirty-eight feet of planting behind the Pavilion, within the hedge. The Ha! Ha! will bound the Green from the outside of the two rows of elms ; the sloping part to be towards the Green, the perpendicular part towards the Pavilion, and walled. Four feet of turf will range with it before the Pavilion, which is to stand upon two stone steps. The gate, which is now on one hand of it, and the stile on the other, to be taken away.—The mason will alter the coves of the niches by the new Summer-house.

I have made, or rather am making, the court before my house so as to drive in with a coach from the Green, by enlarging it considerably ; that is, by setting the palisades back to the Green, where there were posts and rails ; and also adding ten feet to the length. The two stone pillars are taken down, and are setting up again at the extremity of the court, viz. even with the end of the Aviary, and the corner of the Upper Garden, close to a tall fir. The palisades will be very low, and range all equal without

without shewing a gate. I have ordered that none shall be in the middle, for it would obstruct the view of the Pavilion; only on each side two gates will open; one to let in a coach, and the other to let it out when the company is set down; but will be imperceptible when shut. The two ends of walling I have finished building. I propose the court to be entirely gravel; and perhaps the handsome sun-dial, that is in the upper garden, in the middle. There will be low white posts and rails round the court, to prevent drunken coachmen going down the Terrace.—This is my own plan, and I am all over embroidered with dust and mortar daily; but should prefer it to embroidery of another kind, if I thought it would please you; as you are the only touchstone of true taste that I can have recourse to here.—Lord Archer's copper Globe and Cross, gilt, are coming by the carrier from London, for the Obelisk.

My Guinea cocks and hens are all dead, except one of each. The hen has laid a few eggs; but it is impossible to convey them to the Leasowes without being addled. I will endeavour to rear you two or three young ones, and send them. The late Colonel Peers sent me a basketful, very carefully, from Stratford; but all were spoiled.

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What shall the Pavilion be floored with? Where shall we enter the Coppice?—Adieu: the Oxford postman waits to go to Birmingham.—I am at dinner, and going to church.

Yours sincerely,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER LXV.

SIR,

Barrells, Monday, April 29th, 1751.

HAD I been informed, even by a dream, that you and your Brother were suffering such pain of body and mind, (which must be the case when one suffers for one's friend, as well as for one's self) I would have sent immediately to enquire after you both, and should have suffered great anxiety till my messenger had returned: and even without these ills, (unknown to me till the 24th instant) I had sent long before to return the Book, the Ode, &c. and to enquire after you; but not having so pressing a reason as I should have had, could I have heard of your illness, I did delay it, and, I confess, delayed it too long: but it was next to impossible to have done otherwise; the circum-

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stantial reasons for which would make my letter a greater torment to you than my silence could possibly be : so I only say, that my avocations, and those of my servants, have been attended with so many rebuffs from weather and disagreeable accidents, that I have been still obliged to defer from minute to minute, day to day, and week to week, the business I would most willingly have done, and the *devoirs* that I ought to have paid my friends ; but my heart has never been influenced by disappointments, nor allured by any pleasures, to swerve one moment from its fixed attachment to the persons it has devoted itself and all its stock of friendship to. Judge then, Sir, whether it can have been as ungrateful to you as it appears. Melancholy your situation must have been, and is therefore now I hope the more joyful by the recovery of your Brother ; of which you gave me great reason for hopes.

Wednesday, May 1st.

JUST at the break of my letter, I had a good deal of company come in ; and two of them (Mrs. and Miss Chambers) came to stay some time. Their coming obliged me to quit my pen ; and indeed prevented my sending Joe :
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but I hope nothing will prevent his going to the Leafowes to-morrow morning.

I beg my best compliments to Mr. Joseph Shenstone, as does Mr. Hall to you both; and he hopes you are both able to enjoy the beauties of your Groves otherwise than through the window. He feels the more for you, as he has reason to fear his Brother is dying (if not dead by this time) at Bristol, where he left him exceeding ill. I am glad you have a neighbour resembling good Mrs. Holyoak, to attend your sick-chamber; as I have lately experienced the comfort she was to mine.—I do not know Dr. Hervey nor Dr. Wilks; but shall be as inclinable to love him who attended your call, and did his best services, as I shall be to dislike the other, unless I hear some very good reasons for his refusing to come at such an extremity.

My correspondence (had it not intermitted) would have afforded you no pleasure: for as the effects of my mind have as strong an influence upon my nerves as yours have, and as I have had *divers and sundry* things to affect my mind; so am I ill company to myself, to my visitants, and to my correspondents. Would you make me otherwise, pray hasten to give me a good account of your health, and of your

260 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

Brother's, and say that you believe me to be,
as I sincerely am, Sir,

Your faithful friend

and humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S. I fancy *Pompey the Little* may have
served to amuse your sick-chamber! ✕

I send Mr. Somerville's Picture, and will carry
my own to the Leasowes, to see what you can
get your friend to do about them.

L E T T E R LXVI.

SIR,

Barrells, Monday, May 6th, 1751.

*J*OE goes to enquire after your Brother's
health, which I am willing to hope is
better; but cannot shake off my anxiety till
I hear it from you. I sincerely pity *you* for your
concern, and *him* for what he suffers. It is, I
think, fatal to have a friendship for *me*: my
ill fortune reaches to my friends; and indeed
if it did *not*, I should not feel its stings as
strongly as I do.

Written by Francis Coventry The

The weather is intolerable, though in the month of *May*; and in short, pleasure and happiness have absented themselves from Barrells; and I expect their return only by good news from the Leasowes. Grant me that, and believe me to be

Your ever faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Mr. Hall had the misfortune to lose his Brother (who had every good quality requisite to his family) on Friday last, at Six in the evening. I have not seen him since; but he wrote me word at Three in the morning on Saturday.

L E T T E R LXVII.

SIR,

Barrells, May 27th, 1751.

YOU have relieved me from anxious fears; for I imputed your silence to your having no good tidings to impart: but I have now the pleasure to read of your Brother's better health, and consequently of your own better spirits; both which I rejoice at sincerely, and hope fine

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weather will complete what your great care of him has so far effected, as your letter gives an account of; which is having done a great deal, considering the severity of his illness, of which I hope he will have no relapse.

My own spirits are much lowered by my Brother Bolingbroke's misfortune; which thunderbolt fell upon him quite unexpectedly, by the injustice or unskilfulness of French jurisprudence, and the chicane of their lawyers. He has appealed now to their parliament, where if he does not find redress, it will be to *their* disgrace; but so much to *his* detriment, that I dread the thoughts of it. The French judges are partial, even without having the modesty to disguise their partiality; and of the customary law of Paris it is said proverbially, *Que les formes emportent le fond*. This iniquitous and absurd judgment, given against my Brother, is upon a presumption that he was married to his late Lady before the year 1722, which he was *not*; though, out of honour and friendship, he did too much to let it be believed in France: and his delicacy is thus rewarded by her own Daughter and Son-in-law, who owe him great obligations. They take from him 18,500 livres a year in annuities in that country, and condemn him to pay 300,000 livres to the Marquis de Montmorin,
his



MARY CLARA, VISCOUNTESS BOLINGBROKE.

*From a Miniature Picture painted by Lady Malden after the
Original in the Collection of Lady Bolingbroke.*

Pub^d. April 11. 1793. by E & S Harding Pall Mall.



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his Daughter-in-law's Husband. Every livre is about one shilling; so the sum is very considerable to any body, much more to a person harrassed by attainders, forfeitures, &c.—But why do I harrass you with all this account? it is seemingly not the part of a friend to do so, as your spirits rather want to be cheared: and yet it is a strong proof of friendship; for to whom should one open one's heart and speak of one's sorrows, but to the person whom one thinks capable of feeling for one? and of course that must be one we have a friendship for, and on whose reciprocal friendship we depend.

But now to talk of your favourite season *Spring*: Are you not a little ashamed at the appearance she has made this year? Such an advocate as you she must surely have forfeited; and where will she find such another? *I* triumph at present, and hope Autumn will be so fine as to increase my partiality to what your charming lines had almost made me desert. Before that season arrives, I hope to see the Leasowes: for I have usually gone to it later in the year than was convenient. I am sorry you cannot see my Shrubbery now; for it is in its prime. I am new-laying with sand all my Walks in that and the Coppice. My Kitchen-Garden is much improved by your having

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directed it to be lengthened : the Melon Ground is also made warmer and more private. I am going to fence-in the Service-Tree Walk from the Sheep ; for my new gardener has at last contrived to keep other intruders out of it by a Ha! Ha! and high bank he has made across the Lane. My Hermitage has been perfectly dry all this wet season, by the alteration I made when I thatched it ; and more than this I cannot say, though I seem at present in a humour to extol my *environs* : perhaps it is because I have been deprived of the enjoyment of them by the bad weather, and therefore prize them the more, as some sort of tempers are fondest of their friends when absent from them, and grow tired of them when they have their company. However my resemblance to those persons may be as far as relates to my gardens, I do not say ; but I will affirm I have no resemblance to them as to what relates to my friends ; for, absent or present, they are always dear to me : but their presence is what I most wish for. I must, however, use myself (or rather am used) to love people at a distance ; for I see nobody near to bestow my affections upon. Those few who deserve them are, for the most part, snatched from me by one awkward event or other ; and I seldom find use for that member the tongue, which

which is supposed to be so essential to women. My ears are *as* useless to me; for the whistling of the winds is their only entertainment: but my eyes have at present an agreeable verdure to admire, and forty-three troop-horses to observe scampering in my meadow, which, with the tent of the grass-guards, really makes the scenery pretty from my windows: and, solitary as I am, I neither envy the frequenters of Vauxhall nor Ranelagh; and can read of a Jubilee in the News-paper without once wishing to see it. My Brother says that I am almost buried civilly before I am so naturally; and seems to think of following my example; but *that* I am sorry for. *My* being cut off from society is of no consequence to it; but *his* being so is.

I would send you Pompey the Little, if I had it; but the Gentleman who lent it me, borrowed it of another Gentleman, to whom it was to be returned on a day named. It is entertaining enough for such a trifle. Fielding, you know, cannot write without humour. Peregrine Pickle I do not admire: it is by the author of Roderick Random, who is a lawyer: but the thing which makes the book sell, is the History of Lady *Vane*, which is introduced (in the last volume, I think) much to her Ladyship's

ship's dishonour; but published by her *own* order, from her *own* Memoirs, given to the author for that purpose; and by the approbation of her *own* Lord. What was ever equal to this fact? and how can one account for it?—I never read the letters from the characters in David Simple till the other day, though Mrs. Fielding published them four years ago; and her Brother commends them much. I think the Vision, at the end of them, is the best thing in the two volumes.—I cannot tell who wrote the Verses in a Country Church-Yard, but I like them well; and think all the first part of the Elegy very beautiful. I cannot see why it did not end at the most beautiful line in it.—I send you Mr. West upon Education; as being the only new thing Dodsley has sent me. I would eagerly embrace any opportunity of contributing to you. entertainment, and am grieved it is so little in my power: my few correspondents at London are too much taken up with their own amusements to think of regaling their country friends: nay, I believe few of them think at all, being giddy with the whirlwind of diversions of which they are in a continual rotation, and impart none of their pleasures, not even the relation of them, to us *Campagnards*; so that we have nothing to im-

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part that is new to each other. The stagnation of the commodity *Scandal*, I am *not* sorry for; but *that* of the currency of wit, humour, or indeed the mere occurrences of the day, we suffer by: for when *they* circulate, *we* give less way to melancholy thoughts, which are too apt to prey upon the minds of us reclusive people, and do us as much hurt in one sense, as the people of the world's having no thought at all does them in another.—But I just now perceive that I let my own thoughts ramble without bounds, and that my pen obeys them to your misfortune. I console myself a little in remembering to have heard you say you loved to receive *long* letters from your friends. Happy should I be, were you (*who to my cost are not*) like an Irishman, who being sent with three pence for a letter directed to his Master, slyly changed it for one he saw at the Post-house, charged sixpence, being double; and though it was directed to another Gentleman, brought it home to his Master, rejoicing at his contrivance, as this letter was twice as big as that he expected: Were this, I say, your case, the letter I am writing would have some merit with you; whereas, intrinsically it has just none at all, except its coming from a sincere Friend, though stupid Correspondent.

But

But to continue this rhapsody (which I advise you to throw into the fire before you read it); I, who never was given to speak much in praise of Kings, cannot but commend the humane conduct of our own, upon occasion of his Son's death, and the tenderness he has shewn to the Princess Dowager and her children. But I need not have excused my commending Kings, since the actions I commend in him are not owing to his Royalty; but when humanity is joined with it, those actions are more conspicuous, and, I fear I might add, more rare.—I am assured (*à propos* to Kings) that the Memoirs of the House of Brandenburg are wrote by the King of Prussia himself; which makes me wish to read them,

Now (*à propos* to nothing yet said) I must tell you that it is true Mr. Hall felt strongly for his Brother's illness and death, and was assistant to him to the utmost of his power: he has since been fatigued with the consequences of it, which will, I imagine, continue some time, as he voluntarily takes the trouble of settling accounts, &c. with no less than three or four persons his Brother was concerned for, viz. the Bishop of London, Mr. Savage, Mr. Kendal, and perhaps more; but I do not know. He was a great loss to his family; and since his death,

death, a Sister of his has had a great shock by her Father-in-law being found dead suddenly, and in an odd manner; and by her own only daughter being at the point of death, which she was when I heard from our friend Mr. Hall last; and he seemed to be in great apprehensions at the fear of losing his Niece. He had been sent for to this man's funeral at Birmingham very suddenly: On Friday last he went to the Visitation at Warwick, and from thence to Harborough, to officiate on Whitsunday; and is expected home to-night. As soon as I see him, I will deliver your kind message.

My own servant Ann Harrop goes upon business into Cheshire this week. Price is obliged to go at Midsummer into Herefordshire, and my absence at the same time might be of ill consequence, as I have this troop of horses here: but I promise you solemnly, that if my health (which is now very good) permits, I will spend a few days at the Leasowes; which will be the greatest pleasure to, Sir,

Your much obliged

and very humble servant,

HENRIETTA LUXBOROUGH.

My best compliments attend your Brother and Mr. and Miss Dolman.—Write soon, and
I will

I will send you word when I can go to your house.

P.S. Shall I write this letter over again? Yes; it is slovenly wrote now.—Well, but I never could copy a letter in my life. So be it then: Mr. Shenstone winks at faults in friends.

Mrs. Wymondesfold writes word, she has not forgot your *Eau de Jasmin*; but it is not arrived. She sent me a very little *Eau de Mille-fleurs*; of which I send you a drop.

L E T T E R LXVIII.

DEAR SIR,

June 14th, 1751.

I AM sending my horses to fetch my coach from Birmingham, and I take that opportunity of enquiring after your Brother's health by letter, though my servant cannot possibly have time to go to the Leasowes and bring the coach home; but he will leave the letter with the trusty Mr. Williams; and I hope it will find you in spirits.—I made your compliments to Mr. Hall, who is sincerely concerned for your Brother's indisposition; and wishes to spend

spend a week with you this fine season; but finds himself fuller of business than he could have expected: for besides serving three churches this Whitsuntide, and attending two of our Hundreds as Commissioner of the Land-Tax at their meetings, he has had, and still has, many accounts of his Brother's to make up. He finished one the other day with Mr. Savage, which was of 500*l.* and looked out all the vouchers, and produced them. He is making up another with the Bishop of London; and there is Mr. Kendal besides; and I believe more people: and though his Brother's Honesty and Punctuality does not leave it a difficult task to do, yet it takes a great deal of time from a person who has other employments: but he will go to the Leasowes as soon as he has more leisure. I long to go there; and will do so as soon as I possibly can. I wish in the mean time you saw my Shrubbery now: it is in more perfection than when you did see it.

I have not seen or heard of any thing new lately. The King's kindness to the Princess and his Grandchildren—the Jubilee Balls—the beauty of the two Irish women, Miss Gunnings (one of whom they say Lord Coventry has married)—and the untimely death of poor Mr. Dalton, who had all the merit a man can have;
and

272 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

and is murdered by his friend—These, I say, are all the topics I hear of, or rather *read* of; for I *bear* nothing: so adieu. It is the kindest thing not to proceed, after telling you that I have nothing entertaining to write. I am, Dear Sir, with the most sincere friendship,

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I wrote you word of my Brother Bolingbroke's ill fortune in his law-suit in France.

My best compliments to Mr. Joseph Shennstone, Miss Dolman, &c.

P. S. I have considered that it will be more satisfactory to me to have Joe go to the Lea-fowes; so I will send him out the earlier in the morning, that he may make you my compliments in person.

I think I could never forgive myself if I had been the cause (though the Papers call it innocent) of Mr. Dalton's death; as Miss ~~Green~~ was, by her foolish action in giving the snuff-box *he had given her* to Mr. Paul. Mr. Dalton's Father had but one other child than this which is now killed, and he was drowned last year in a ship that sunk in bringing him from abroad.

This is an error; 2 Mr Dalton had a ^{This} son, now living single at the paternal estate at Kenilworth in Lincolnshire—a daughter married to Edmund Probyn Esq. one married to Wyricham and Jane now living single at Aldborough in Suffolk also Sophia married to Parrell Esq. Eglington
1812

This (whose death is now recent) was a young man of great learning, great good nature, great honour and sobriety, and a most genteel behaviour. It was he acted so well the top part in the play Miss Patty and Mr. Meredith acted at London.

LETTER LXIX.

SIR,

Ascension-Day, 1751.

THE anxiety of doubt one cannot too soon remove; therefore I will not neglect this opportunity of enquiring after your Brother's health, by the state of which your spirits do at present ebb or flow, as I imagine; and by their influence, your friends must feel pain or pleasure. Your last kind letter relieved me from my fears, by some paragraphs; but increased them by others, especially by the latter one. I will however hope that I construed it in a worse sense than there was occasion for; and I should have sent again ere now to be more fully informed, had I had it in my power; but business, company, and weather, all impeded: and even now, Joe carries this to Mr. Williams;

*Paul was disinherited by his father, yet
Paul went into the Austrian service, and for his
loyalty made Count of the Empire; never could obtain
pardon as long as George 2^d lived — was pardoned by
present King, married Miss Weston; was Secretary
to Embassy at Paris — died 1812. aged 83 —
leaving three sons and a daughter.*

yet does not go on to the Leafowes. This appears inhuman; but so it must be: for with four of my horses he conveys my landau to the said Mr. Williams to paint anew, and to get mended; and must return at night with the same four horses to Barrells, where he will find full forty horses more; being those of Captain Robinson's Troop, which are to graze here till winter, if grass ever appears. Thus harrassed with that incumbrance (which might have been very profitable) and confined to my chimney-corner, without a flower to adorn my chimney-piece, or a gooseberry my board, I languish out this everlasting winter without so much as prognosticating its end. I did indeed yesterday dine with Mrs. Kendal at Stratford, whom I had not seen since the loss of her only Son, and her favourite Sister: but found the roads, the weather, and every thing so bad, (except her company) that I never was so fatigued in going forty or fifty miles in a day.

If your Brother is better, you will have read Little Pompey: It is Fielding's. 210—

The King's tenderness and humanity shewn so strongly to the Princess Dowager and her Son, seems to please every body.—I hear of many weddings; more deaths; and the latter has happened to the affliction of several I wish

well

y by Francis Country

well to: so that if the remaining part of the year does not bestow upon me a scene of more pleasure, I shall begin to give up the sentiment you and I both agreed in,—Of the equal distributions of Fortune's smiles or frowns. Let that happen as it will, I think I never had so good a chance as now of finding you give up your favourite season Spring. It has ill rewarded your zeal; and I do not think Autumn can possibly prove equally ungrateful to *mine*: but let seasons vary as they list; my affection to my friends varies not; for they will find me (as long as I enjoy life) immutable; as I hope you, Sir, do me the justice to believe I am, in my regard for you, and my good wishes for your perfect happiness.—I cannot make a truer ending: so be it.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S. My compliments attend Miss Dolman, and my good wishes Mr. Joseph Shenstone. Mr. Hall expressed his when I saw him four days ago: since which the Father of a Brother-in-law of his was found dead at Birmingham; which must have been a fresh concern to him on his Sister's account; and his family have had an irreparable loss in his Brother, who died

lately ; which lowering of spirits makes every new event more fore, at least so I feel, and I fancy none are hardened by misfortunes but those who were hardened by nature.

L E T T E R LXX.

Barrells, Wednesday, July 10th, 1751.

DEAR SIR,

MY not having answered yours, of the 14th ultimo, is owing to the hopes you gave me of surprizing me agreeably with a visit. The season is now favourable for it ; and I promise you to return it soon. Why should you not come and celebrate St. Swithin's Day with me ? Your company will make me regard the day which gave me birth with much more pleasure than the circumstance of its having first shewn me the light : for what is light, or any other blessing, without social friends ?

I return Mr. Somerville's Picture (as I suppose you meant I should). I think it very like Worledge's, and indeed like Mr. Somerville ; but methinks it scarcely does him justice, as some of the least agreeable features in his face

are rather too strongly marked; as under the eyes for example; and I think as he was very fair, the pencil might be fainter. But upon the whole, had I not another of him, I would not give this for a great sum. His urn is now beautifully shaded by its canopy of oak; under which I sat last night agreeably, though alone, looking at the neighbouring hills, hearing my mowers whet their scythes, seeing the troop-horses scamper about my avenue, and hearing one of the Grass-Guard Dragoons play on his German Flute; which he does very well: he has also a pair of Irish Bag-pipes, with which he can play in concert; they having sixteen notes, and the Scotch but nine. He has no pipe to put to his mouth, and but very little motion with his arm; his fingers do the chief. You shall hear him on Monday, if you please; and I hope you will please.

I dare say your new windows will please others, though they may not please you. You have not indulgence enough for your own taste; nay, you do it injustice. Do not talk of *altering old houses*, or of *maturing and perfecting errors*; that touches me home, and makes me wince: for too true it is, that after a vast deal of money laid out, one has nothing per-

fect, nor within many degrees of perfection,

Your town of Birmingham grows very polite. I think the Players, who enjoyed the pleasure of your Grove, should have entertained you there. How delightful would be the Masque of Comus acted on that spot!

I think Mr. Dolman's objection to coming here the day you proposed it can hardly be received as an excuse. Deficiency in point of dress is never observed, where there is no deficiency in sentiment and sense; therefore he might have come safely any-where, and still more so to me, who lay very little stress upon the outward ornaments of my acquaintance.

I am extremely glad Mr. Joseph Shenstone continues pretty well; and beg my compliments to him.—Lord St. John is still at Battersea, but is going to Caen, in Normandy, to the Academy.—My servant Price is at London upon business, I expect him home on Saturday; when I hope to hear more of my friends in those parts. In the mean time I can inform you of nothing new; for I hope it is not so to say that I am, with great truth,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

N. B. St. Swithin's Day is on Monday,
July 15th.

If you cannot come, write me word.

TO WILLIAM SHENSTONE, Esq.

WROTE AT THE LEASOWES, AUGUST 7, 1749.

'TIS Nature here makes pleasing scenes arise,
And wisely gives them SHENSTONE to
revise;

To veil each flaw, to brighten ev'ry grace;
Yet still to let them wear their parent's face.

How well our Bard obeys, each object tells;
These lucid streams, gay meads, and lonely cells:
Where blended Art so craftily's conceal'd,
And Nature's charms so gracefully reveal'd;
That pleas'd *She* claims the glory of the plan,
As proud for once t'adopt the work of man.

H. L——.

Thus altered afterwards.

'TIS Nature here bids pleasing scenes arise,
And wisely gives them SHENSTONE to
revise;

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To

280 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

To veil each blemish, brighten ev'ry grace;
Yet still preserve the lovely parent's face.

How well the Bard obeys, each object tells;
These lucid meads, gay lawns, and mossy cells:
Where modest *Art* in silence lurks conceal'd,
While Nature shines so gracefully reveal'd;
That *She* triumphant claims the total plan;
And, with fresh pride, adopts the work of man,

H. L.

L E T T E R LXXI.

Sunday Night, St. Swithin, my Birth-day.

SIR,

YOUR servant came just as Lord Archer
and Mr. Justice Chambers came in to
dinner, and found me so suffocated with heat,
and so hurried with company that was here, and
company that is to be here to-morrow, that I
could but just read your letter; by which, I
find *your* hay-making tallies with unexpected
business of *mine*; and both agree to prevent
our meeting so soon as intended, and wished
for. *My* business is the expectation of a Lawyer
from

from London, and Mr. Outing, who are to come at my expence in a post-chaise, as Commissioners, to see me execute a fine, in consequence of my parting with my house in London to Mr. Wymondesfold. I dare not be from home till this affair is over, as you may imagine; since I have had notice given me of it: and Lord Luxborough, who must join for form's sake, is equally confined in Surry, till they have been to see him execute his part. As soon as this is over, I will let you know, and embrace the agreeable opportunity you offer of enjoying your conversation in your cool retreat, (if any cool there be) and in seeing the beauties of other Seats within your reach. —I will shew Mr. Hall the obliging part of your letter which concerns him, if I see him to-morrow; which I suppose I shall, as my birth-day being to be celebrated may bring him to this side of Warwickshire.

I congratulate Lord Dudley upon gaining his law-suit; for I believe he would be glad of any good that befel me or any body else; or his looks belie him.

I am glad *Don Pedro's* solemn demeanor does not appear unworthy of your solemn words; and that *Donna Elvira's* tenderness for her absent children has ingratiated her to Mrs. Arnold,
who

282 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

who will recompense the fully for whatever she has left behind, and be as tender of *her*, as as she of her feathered babes.—If the *Antiquarian Dean* lays no stress upon the old Abbey, I think you may venture to pillage it without fear of a holy war. I wish it was Loretta for your sake, and that it might make you as *bappy* as *rich*: but if treasure and happiness must (as generally they are) be parted, may you enjoy the *latter* undisturbed, till I cease to be

Your very faithful

and obliged servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R LXXII.

DEAR SIR, Barrells, Monday, July 22d, 1751.

THIS is only to enquire whether you received my letter, by which I invited you to come to Barrells on St. Swithin's Day, (it being my Birth-day) which was on Monday the 15th. As I did not hear from you, I concluded every minute that you was just coming. I hope no illness, either of yours or your Brother's, prevented you; and that I shall see you
very

very soon.—Lord Dudley sent to me yesterday from Henley; but did not call.

I am ever your most obliged
and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH,

LETTER LXXIII.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, August 1st, 1751.

AT twelve o'clock at noon, and in bed, (to my shame be it spoken) I received your packet: the only thing fortune has favoured me in this last fortnight. I hope her next gift will be your company here or at the Leasowes, if I have spirits enough left to go that far. You never knew mine at so low an ebb as they are at present; and consequently I never had so much occasion for your company and your letters; which I find a relish in, though in few other things in life. You should have bestowed upon me the sight of the Verses that went to Hagley. I envy the company there the pleasure they have in perusing them; which their good taste and good judgments make them
worthy

worthy of : but if the sentiments of hearts alone were to be consulted, I feel myself as worthy as they can be of seeing your Works, by the sincere regard and friendship I have for the author.

I find the Leafowes is become the resort of the *beau monde*; nor do I wonder at it; but I think the Masters of the Vauxhalls, Ranelaghs, and the Playhouses in the neighbourhood ought to file a bill against you, for decoying their company from them.—If Sir Harry Gough has no better taste for the environs of a place than he shews in his choice of liquor, he does not deserve to see your Grove : for whey is, I think, what one would not go so far to drink.

A Mr. Gough of Perry-Hall was here, about three weeks ago, to ask leave to see my Hermitage, and said he liked it. I do not enjoy it much myself : the cold weather and incessant rain would hinder me, were I even in better spirits. Indeed, you will say, it is just a proper place for indulging melancholy thoughts ; which is true ; but therefore I ought to shun it.—I am to dine to-morrow at Umberlade, as little as I like going out.—I dare answer that Lord and Lady Archer would have been glad to meet you here. I have not been to see Lord and Lady Plymouth yet, nor Mrs. Chester ; but
when

when they return from Warwick Races, I must make them two visits; and I ought to go to Mr. West's, whom you mention, if I did any thing that ceremony requires; and after these visits, I propose to pack up my night-cap, and make a more agreeable visit at the Leasowes; which pleasure, I hope, the ingratitude and malice that persecutes me, cannot deprive me of. In the mean time, I flatter myself that your workmen will spare you to have a peep at the Bees in my Library, and at my venerable Oak: The soldier that played on the German Flute so well, whilst I sat under it, is returned to Worcester, which I am sorry for; it sounded so well amongst the trees as I walked in my little wood; and even his bagpipes were not disagreeable. He played on both on my birthday, whilst we bowled, and had our syllabub out of doors; for I had no entertainment to offer but *des amusemens champêtres*.

My Brother Bolingbroke is every day in expectation to hear some account from France of his troublesome law-suit: after that, he will determine what to do. He seems most inclinable to end his days with me: if so, here will be a Hermit and Hermitess in reality; to which the wooden one must give place.

My

James West Esq of Alcock Co. Warwick - Sec-
retary to the Treasury married Miss
Hytchins daughter of a great London Merchant
Southwark by whom he had a son &
one married Lord Archer the
latter died single

286 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

My friend Tom is (they tell me) in haste to return, as his having got here so early availed him nothing, because of my laziness: to make up for that, and reconcile me to his favour, I must now be diligent and hasten to assure you that I am, Sir,

Your most faithful

and obliged servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R LXXIV.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, August 21st, 1751.

THE depression of spirits my letter discovered to you, turned into a dangerous bilious fever; and the bile which has by proper medicines been discharged, proved to be as black as in my late illness (when you sent to enquire so kindly after me, and when it was supposed I could not live). I need say no more: this is a full sufficient reason for not having

having answered your last obliging letter, nor having returned your delightful Ode; which has run in my head, and been the only pleasing thought during my confinement to my bed; but the pleasure was generally eclipsed by pain before I could have spoke (much less have wrote) my approbation of it; and now I do it with a weak hand and head, the fever never having left me for a week; but my heart thanks you for *my share* of the compliments you pay to your visitors at the Leasowes, and which every party deserves more than myself, by their merit; but can never deserve it more by their sentiments in regard to you. Sincerely, I think it fine poetry, and am persuaded better judges will think the same.

I cannot write much more; yet must tell you one secret which nobody in this neighbourhood knows, viz. that my Brother Bolingbroke is to send a set of horses from Battersea on Saturday next, to fetch me to him. He would have had me come sooner (as being his only comfort) if I had been able. I am now by my bed-side expecting Mr. Holyoak, to know if he thinks I shall be able to set out on Tuesday morning: I must be dying if I do not; and I repeat my medicines every two hours, hoping to advance my cure. My Brother
ther

ther has a cancer on his cheek-bone, which is already an inch and half diameter, and three quarters of an inch thick. He is not under so much apprehension as I am for him.—I hope (if I do not hear before) that I shall hear from you when I am with him. Direct to me at Battersea House, Surry, by London.—I hope your Brother is well, and that you are persuaded of my sincere attachment. Adieu.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S. Outing proposes to be here next week. He little thinks that he will be disappointed.

Pray do me the favour when you have an opportunity, to ask Aris for a Bill of Paper, &c. that I have had of him, and inclose it in one of your letters to me.

L E T T E R LXXV.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, August 25th, 1751.

AMONG the many disagreeable things I suffer from the *iniquity of Chance*, (as you express it) it is none of the least, that I am deprived

prived of seeing you and your improvements at the Leafowes. I sometimes form an idea of them; but they amuse me in that shape only as a fairy-tale. You do me justice, when you believe that I would willingly (I may add joyfully) have gone and spent some days with you: but, as the vulgar French proverb says, *l'homme propose, et Dieu dispose*.

You are extremely kind in sending to enquire after my health; as also in advising me to be less precipitate, than I generally am, in my journies. My Brother Bolingbroke desires the same of me; and adds, that he is hopeful I shall find his cancer near, if not quite, extirpated; which revives me a little. If it be so, it will do honour to the person who undertook the cure, and whom Mr. Chifelden, in a letter to me, treated with some scorn, as a *Cancer-curer, Operator, &c.* But before my Brother employed him, he had sufficient assurances that the remedy had succeeded in a multitude of cases; which he took care to have examined and verified: therefore he says, he should *even* be more unfortunate than it belongs to *him* to be, if it failed in his case alone. Perhaps I may bring him back with me; and who knows but we three may meet here? as to the Leafowes, I cannot answer; for I believe he will

not make many peregrinations the rest of his life.

I will undoubtedly write to you from Battersea; and have sent this day covers to Lord Archer to frank, with that intent. You must not expect much news, or any thing jovial from thence; but sincerity of heart you may always expect from me; nor need you doubt my remembering you wherever I am. The affection of my real friends, and the civilities they shew me, make a much stronger impression upon me than the injuries of my enemies, or even than the treachery and ingratitude of suppos'd friends.

The situation of the Prince's Pillar at Hagley, as I remember, did not much please me: the effect it will have in the other place I cannot judge of at this distance. If Sir Thomas dies, I suppose his Son and Mr. Pitt will extend their genius and taste some miles: but they cannot obtain for money what Nature has presented you with at the Leafowes; I mean, a command of water.

That I approve your Ode is no merit in me, unless you account it one to know that a good thing is good.

As to Peregrine Pickle, I hired it, and that merely for the sake of reading one of the volumes,

volumes, wherein are inserted the *Mémoires* of Lady V^{er}, which, as I was well acquainted with her, gave me curiosity. The rest of the book is, I think, ill wrote, and not interesting. Pompey the Little is pretty and humorous, and the language good; but it was only lent me; and I have had nothing of late from Doddsley: but you may depend upon it, if I pick up any thing worth reading at London, I will send it you. I am glad your Brother has had no return lately of his asthma, and beg my compliments to him, as also to Mr. and Miss Dolman.

I have laid your letter to Mr. Outing upon my chimney-piece, where he will find it if he comes to Barrells: when that will be, it is not in my power to say, any more than it is in his, I suppose, to be more ambulant.

I cannot give your message to Mr. Hall, not having seen him this month. He is, I believe, at Harborough, and would undoubtedly accept of your invitation.

I beg you will favour me with your commands to London, which I can execute with ease, and will do it with punctuality.

I must now ask pardon for keeping your servant-maid all night against her inclination and duty: for she said she had promised to come home.

home. I sent her word, I was apprized of the length of way, and that the fatigue would be too much, and moreover that I would take the fault upon me, if it was one; so, dear Sir, you are to punish me and not her, if this proves amiss. I have sent her to see my Gardens and Coppice; but fear she will despise them, being used to your's.

What more can I say from this solitude, but that in all places I am equally, Dear Sir,

Your faithful friend

and obliged servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH?

L E T T E R LXXVI.

SIR, Sunday, December 27th, Two o'clock.

AS I was stepping into my post-chaise this morning, your servant delivered me your obliging letter; which nothing should have prevented my answering immediately, but going to church; from whence I am this moment returned, so pinched with cold, and my fingers

fingers so numb'd, that I can scarcely hold my pen; and your servant sends me word he cannot well stay, having so far to ride. These reasons will I hope excuse my not answering your letter in the manner I ought. To which I may add another reason, Sir Peter Soame being just come in to dinner: but I must find time, in justice to myself, to tell you that I am greatly pleased with the hopes of seeing you at Barrells next week; and I esteem myself *no small Heroine*, since I have removed such a bar to my pleasure as was your *indolence*, which prevented my seeing you here; but since that is removed, I glory in my exploit, and am, Sir,

Your most obliged

humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER LXXVII.

SIR,

M^Y paralytic fingers will not obey the dictates of my heart, which thanks Mr. Shenstone for his kind letter; and begs

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for

for more such epistles. I believe the Green Book would cure me, and save a journey to Bath.

Mr. Mallet begs, for the sake of himself and the world, that your Muse would not be silent.

Adieu. Je n'en puis dire davantage sans l'usage des doigts, qui me paroissent avoir reçus l'impression de tous mes autres maux; car, Dieu merci, je me porte passablement bien d'ailleurs.

H. L.

L E T T E R LXXVIII.

DEAR SIR,

Bath, January 20th, 1752.

MY fingers *shall* make an effort to write to you: you *must* make a great one to read what they write. Such is my present situation.—The Doctors give me hopes that bathing and pumping will soon restore me to the use of my hands. But as yet, I have only drank the waters at home, the week I have been here.—I spent three weeks at London
after

after my Brother's death, at Mr. Wymondesfold's. They enquired much after you.

Your grief for your Brother I feel in its full force, and am persuaded you feel the like as to mine: but as our losses are irrecoverable, we ought, I believe, not only to submit, but to endeavour to shake off the melancholy ideas they suggest.—I preach what I do not well practise; and will prescribe what I do not well execute—Come into company; Bath is your place—and I am in all places, and at all times,

Your faithful servant,

H. L.

LETTER LXXIX.

Orange Grove, February 29th, 1752.

DEAR SIR,

LEST my fingers should refuse me their assistance for more than two minutes, I begin my letter by telling you that your recommendation leaves me no room to hesitate; and I readily accept the house-maid from your hands (who knows, I presume, that she is also

U 4

to

to do the dairy, as her predecessors in my service did) and I would have her go to Barrells immediately, if possible; for I have been obliged to send for my laundry-maid hither, to assist for the present (my own servant, who is also my housekeeper, being married); so that there is not one female now at Barrells. Joe and she will settle the day of her going.

For once bid business avaunt, and ask us how we do at Bath, and at your friend Graves's. We can offer you friendly conversation, friendly springs, friendly rides and walks, friendly pastimes to dissipate gloomy thoughts; friendly booksellers, who for five shillings for the season will furnish you with all the new books; friendly chairmen, who will carry you through storms and tempests for sixpence, and seldom else, for Duchesses trudge the streets here unattended: we have also friendly Othellos, Falstuffs, Richards the Third, and Harlequins, who entertain one daily for half the price of your Garricks, Barrys, and Rich's—And (what you will scarcely believe) we can also offer you friendly solitude; for one may be an Anchorite here without being disturbed by the question *Why?*—Would you see the fortunate and benevolent Mr. Allen, his fine house, and his stone-quarries? Would you see our law-giver Mr. Nash, whose white
hat

hat commands more respect and non-resistance than the Crowns of some Kings, though now worn on a head that is in the 80th year of its age? To promote society, good manners, and a coalition of parties and ranks; to suppress scandal and late hours, are his views; and he succeeds rather better than his brother-monarchs generally do: hasten then your steps; for he may be soon carried off the stage of life, as the greatest must fall to the worms repast: yet, he is now hanging his Collection of Beauties, so as to have space to hang up as many more future Belles. His Apelles is Howard (in crayons); his Praxiteles is Howard's Brother, who, though a statuary, deigns also to exercise his art in sculpture on humble paper-ceilings, which are very handsome.

You ridicule the trifles I sent you, by calling them *elegant presents*: in revenge, I send you nothing this time in Joe's pocket but a bit of dirty rock, and a snail petrified by the waters hereabouts. If you please, I can buy you, for four shillings, a quart of durable cement, to make urns, &c. in rock-work with these sort of materials, and Bristol stones, or even of shells.

How infinitely I scrawl! I who can scarcely hold a pen, and could not write to my
Nephew

298 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

Nephew Bolingbroke, till last week, since his Uncle's death.

Adieu, Monsieur: je n'en puis plus; ma main se revolte, mais jamais mon cœur.

H. L.

I am told your Friend Mr. Graves does not leave his Wife an inch.

P. S. I will make your compliments to any body you please, let them live in what latitude soever, when you name them to me.—Mrs. Maynard sends her respects to you.—My letter is so scribbled, interlined, and blotted, that I hope you will copy the part relating to the House-keeper, instead of shewing her friends my whole preposterous letter.

Pray, How does Eolus's harp perform?

Mr. Bradley's family are well recovered from inoculation, and not marked. There were seven or eight at once inoculated at home by Mr. Holyoak.

LETTER

LETTER LXXX.

DEAR SIR, Barrells, Thursday, June 4th, 1752;

HAD I had a servant to send to the Leasowes, I should not have omitted thanking you for your kind (though short) visit, long before this time: but Price and Joe were both at London; the rest of my domesticks all new servants, that are as unknown to me as the road to your house is to them. Price came home in my post-chaise last Saturday, but returns to London on Friday next. He brought me a letter from Mrs. Wymondesfold, in which was the inclosed Postscript, as also a very diminutive bottle of Sweets, which I send with this letter to the care of Mr. Williams. She goes to Tunbridge the first week in July, and to Bath the first week in October; between which seasons she will endeavour to prevail with her Father-in-law to dispense with her company three weeks, in order to spend them here with me.

I must now beg the favour of you to instruct me about the ceiling of my bed-room, which I would have adorned a little with *papier maché* and

300 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

and the ground painted of a colour ; but do not know where to get the paper ornaments, nor how to have them fixed up : for no person hereabouts has the smallest idea of it. Should not the ceiling and cove, which are at present plain stucco much cracked, be mended by the Warwick plaisterer, before the rest is attempted? Be so good, dear Sir, as to send me an answer to these queries as soon as possible.

When you write to Mr. Greaves, pray do not forget my compliments to him and to Mrs. Greaves, whom I am sorry I did not see at Barrells.

Let me know how your new apartment goes on ; to which this rainy weather will have caused you to give fresh attention, as your environs cannot have drawn you far from it ; and yet we are in the month of June—so says the Almanack—but I cannot believe it. I am at all seasons (however mutable *they* may be) ever immutable in my friendship to you, and very much

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH,

LETTER

LETTER LXXXI.

Barrells, Saturday, June 6th, 1752.

DEAR SIR,

YOUR quick return to my troublesome letter gave me much pleasure, but no surprize, as you have long accustomed me to all friendly attentions on your part: but your taking down your whole *ceiling* to send me, merely to satisfy my impertinent curiosity, is a gallantry that quite confounds me; and your maid's charging herself with it, and bringing it safe, though unaccompanied, and riding single, shews her a Heroine. Had you seen me open the parcel, you would have found me a contrast to her. Fear and trembling seized me ere I read that it was extremely tender and apt to break. It increased so much upon viewing the truth of that, that as I received the pieces I returned them in five minutes time to your servant, lest any thing should happen to them here: but however, in that short time, I perceived that your advice to me was proper in regard to *my ceiling*, and that your ornaments must look very pretty in *yours*. I will write to Bromwich to send me
some

some in that taste, and will get the accidental cracks I mentioned to you repaired; after which, if the Gentleman your neighbour favours me with a visit and with his directions, it will infinitely oblige me.

You please me in telling me you have had company, and more so, in telling me you are not at present the least averse to such dissipation; for your averseness to it prevented the effect which you seemed to want from such a remedy. I am myself too averse to that remedy to wonder you are so: but it is common to preach better than one practises.

I know Mrs. Stanley; for I suppose you mean the Daughter of Sir Hans Sloane, Sister of Lady Cadogan: Admiral Smith I do not know: but who is there but must wish to know him, when you say he is the *delight of mankind*?—I am glad Lord Dudley is restored to you, and beg my compliments to him and Miss Lea.—Mr. Outing is still at Henley at Mr. Holyoak's: he comes here sometimes as a day-visiter; sometimes stays a night, which he did yesterday with Jack Reynolds; and they left me this morning. He knows he is welcome for longer.—I am glad Sir George Lyttelton has a view to modern plans for his house; which

which certainly ought to be more modern (or more antique) than it is.

Mrs. Wymondesfold in my opinion deserves no thanks for such an ideal present: for my part, I saw nothing in the little bottle (which I durst not open) but a green small shadow: if any thing was ever in it (as undoubtedly there was) it must have evaporated, as well it might, being covered with *nothing*, and stopp'd with a common glass-stopper.—You do Price too much honour:—he is at London; how *well* or *ill*, I do not know at present.

Talking of illness, I mention with real concern that of your maid's sister; and the more so, as she is a servant you recommended to me, and whom I much wished to have found capable of the work her post here obliged her to; which is in itself such as only a strong and healthy person used to work can go through; I mean when I have my whole dairy; but since she has been here, I have had but one cow, and no labour; yet the poor girl was seized with pains in all her limbs about four days ago, which grew worse, and are more fixed in one arm now. I no sooner knew it, but I sent for Mr. Holyoak, who is the person with whom I intrust my own health: after he had talked with her, he told me she said any cold was
apt

apt to give her such pains (which he called rheumatic); and that wetting her feet would do it immediately. This is a great misfortune to a servant, and makes it impossible to a mistress to keep one so tender; and would be great imprudence in the servant, however willing, (as I dare say this is) to attempt it. Therefore hope dear Mr. Shenstone will not take it amiss that I part with her. I offer her and your own maid-servant my post-chaise to carry them together, as it would be more easy for Hannah on Monday; and hope your own maid will accept the offer, that she may accompany her sister, and also see Barrells to-morrow (Sunday) with less interruption.

I am, dear Sir, with constant truth,

Your faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I enquired of your man after Mrs. Arnold. If he does not tell her, pray let this letter say, I am her hearty well-wisher.

LETTER

LETTER LXXXII.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, July 19th, 1752.

AS I have eight people at table, and as you request me to dispatch the trusty and valuable Tom to-night, you must not expect an answer suitable to your agreeable letter, either in length or stile: so I hasten to return thanks for your punctuality about the label, and for your kind invitation to the Leasowes. I must next tell you the reasons you have been so long without hearing from me; which are, First, A journey to Oxford I was obliged to take upon business; and since that, Company I have had in my house. At present, here are Sir Peter Soame and his Son, Mrs. Davies, and Mr. Outing, who will write his own excuse.—My hanging-paper is arrived, and the cracks of the ceiling have been filled. The papier maché is not yet come, but is bespoke.—You may depend upon my inclination's guiding me to the Leasowes as soon as it is in my power: but I am as busy in hay as you can possibly be, and having lost half my sett of horses, and not yet being able to supply their

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places,

places, the three remaining ones are fully employed, and cannot be spared for me to use; and moreover my post-chaise is gone to have new wheels put to it. These distresses removed, I shall wait upon you, and Lord Dudley; to whom, and to Miss Lea, I beg my best compliments.—I shewed the *Débris* of my Bath-rock-work to your man Tom, who will carry a small basketful.

I am most inviolably

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Sir Peter and Mr. Soame's compliments attend you.

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, August 15th, 1752.

YOU are always obliging, but doubly so now, in sending to enquire again after me, though I have not yet been at the Lea-fowes to thank you for all favours: but my company has but just left me; and whilst they
were

were here, I could neither find time to go any where, nor even to write.—Sir Peter Soame and his Son are gone back to Heydon. I carried Mrs. Davies home to Stratford yesterday—was-sevennight; and this day sevennight Mr. Outing went to Gloucestershire, in order to embark last Monday for Monmouth: so he may probably be afraid with reason, and become a prey to the fish, having so young a guide as his pupil: and, as I told him, if such an accident happened, nobody would pity him; but all would say (as in Moliere's play)

“ Qu' alloit il faire dans cette galere ? ”

This *juvenile* party consists of Lord Somerville's two Sons, Outing's Pupil, himself, and Jack Reynalds; who go this voyage by water they know not why nor where. Landrinden they talked of taking in their way, when the Somerviles, &c. lay here and formed this party: but they were no sooner gone than I perceived Outing's heart failed him, but he was ashamed to own it to them; however, he said he would go no farther than to Monmouth, and told Lane he intended to be back at Barrells in a fortnight's time. If he is so, he will undoubtedly go with me to the Leafowes. If I can also get Mrs. Davies to go, she will

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contribute

368 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

contribute to our mirth, and will sing all day: Sir Peter taught her two or three new songs. She can lay with my servant; so that she will not take up a bed the more. I have thoughts of going in my landau, and of sending back four of the horses the same night, and keeping two at your house, which will I suppose be sufficient to carry me to the Grange. If convenient to you, I propose going to the Leasowes on Friday the 28th instant: if not convenient to you, pray write me word. Price begs he may attend my coach.—I rejoice at your jollity, and will join in chorus, when you sing

“ Banissons la mélancolie :”

but your *writing nothing* I do not approve of, no more than of your not finishing my Green Book.—Your inscription upon the Label should be *Vin de Paisan*, without the *s* at last.

Joe translated the French receipt for cauliflowers, and has dictated it to Lane, whilst I have been writing this letter.

My best compliments wait on Lord Dudley and Miss Lea; and I am ever

Most sincerely yours, &c.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER LXXXIV.

***N**Otwithstanding my partiality to Autumn, I long for Spring, as it will I hope bring you to Barrells, and as it ushers in Summer, which will carry me to the Leasowes, where I will, as long as it is in my power, pay my devoirs to you, and make libations to our departed Friend over his urn, which I am glad you have erected to his memory; as I think it is pity that so worthy a man should meet with so few people to pay to his memory the honours it deserves; and so many, that, on the contrary, vilify his character: And though I am far from laying a stress upon funeral pomp, no one (Jacky Reynalds excepted) shed a tear over his corse, or has laid a stone over his grave,—notwithstanding Lord Somerville is so great a gainer by his dying, and the Vicar was so great a one by his living: but ingratitude is now as fashionable as bribery and corruption.

Here I end, lest you should be quite tired out, and not return me an answer soon, for fear of drawing upon yourself a troublesome

* The beginning of this Letter is wanting.

X 3

reply.

310 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

reply. It is late; but I can, with the worst pen, and the sincerest heart assure you, that I am, Sir,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R LXXXV.

DEAR SIR, Barrells, September 28th, 1751.

MR. Pixall has just been saying he intends to go home to-morrow: You would otherwise have heard from me by-another conveyance; for I could not longer have forborne returning my sincere thanks for the very obliging, hospitable, and pleasing reception I met with at the Leafowes, and for your agreeable, though too short, visit at Barrells.

My cough continues; but I am otherwise well, and inhabit my lower apartment and my Summer-house, where I hope to receive you and Lord Dudley before the days grow much shorter, and the elms quite bare. My compliments attend his Lordship, Miss Lea, and all your neighbours.

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and as I believe *you* would have it (so well has Mr. Pixall performed his part); and the festoons over the windows are not the least elegant ornaments of the room: the doors seem to envy the windows, and are in as plain a dress as that of the Quakers; but are very ready to submit to any ornament *you* will be pleased to bestow.

I desire the bearer may lead my coach-horse home; and I beg the favour of you to pay the farrier, and to let me know what his bill comes to, which will be better than letting him make it to me, who am a stranger.

I have just been writing to the Earl and Countess of Ferrers, from whom I received compliments this day, and information of their marriage; so that my hand is *tired*, but my heart is *indefatigably true* to my friends, and would be equally serviceable, if power was given to

Your faithful and obliged

humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Laurence Earl Ferrers was Mary da:
Amos Meredith 1752 she was afterwards
allowed a separate maintenance by act of
Parliament, and nine years after his exor-
cism she married Lord Frederick Campbell
and was burnt to death at Fenchurch Street.
X 4 LETTER

L E T T E R LXXXVI,

Barrells, Sunday, October 15th, 1752,

DEAR SIR,

ANY messenger that comes from the Leasowes is sure to be welcome at Barrells (as Hannah would have been, if you had permitted her to come).—You are very kind in being solicitous about my health, which is good now, my Birmingham cough has left me; but it continued a considerable time after you went from hence.

I congratulate you upon having had so much agreeable company, who will undoubtedly visit you often; as, by your account of them, they seem to be people of taste.—My pride cannot be heightened by Sir George Lyttelton's approbation of my Lines, because Mr. Shenstone had commended them before, and has thought them worthy of being retouched by himself.

Lord Dudley is slow in fixing a day for giving me the pleasure of his and your company: but I hope the resolution will come upon

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upon him suddenly, and will as suddenly be executed; though I cannot promise his Lordship any pleasure in the journey, except that of *obliging*; which I know is a great one to him.

Mr. Outing and I have lived like two Hermits since you left us. The few fine days we have had I have employed in making small improvements (alterations at least) in my Coppice, and in the way to it: but much more planting is required; and I want greatly a hedge that will grow as quick as yours did, and I shall prize it as much (but with far more reason) as the *venerable* Dean does his newly-found Druid-Idol.

I return your small Red Book, after having copied the Ode on Indolence, which pleases me much.—I also send you by trusty Tom three Roses for your Gothic windows, which you may fix up without censure, for they are all *red*.

I observe your aversion to Autumn continues, and that, when you find *your* spirits depressed, you are ready to lay the fault on the season; but I take it that solitude is the chief cause, and the nurse of *painful ideas*.

I hope Mrs. Arnold is well, and shall be obliged to her for a Guinea cock, when convenient.

Pray

Pray remember me kindly to Mr. Pixall, and ask if he bespoke my long stools and fire-grate at Birmingham? and whether he spoke to Mr. Williams?

Adieu. I am interrupted by Mr. John Reynolds, and Mr. Bradley, and Lady Plymouth's servant, from writing more; but never can be interrupted in my sentiments of friendship and gratitude towards you, which are immutable.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER LXXXVII.

Barrells, Tuesday, October 24th, 1752.

DEAR SIR,

LONG have I expected the pleasure of your company and Lord Dudley's, but have expected in vain; and my impatience at the delay will sufficiently show the greater impatience and the concern I now feel at finding myself obliged to prolong that delay, which I wished to shorten.—The truth is, that my

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old servant Price is struck with a palsy, and one half of his body is dead; so that he is entirely helpless: and as his weight and size do not agree with the narrowness of my garret-stairs, there was not a possibility of carrying him, last Saturday, higher than the first story; where he has continued ever since in the bed Mr. Outing lay in till then; and another person lays in the other bed, in the same room, to be ready at hand to assist him, and turn him as he lays. This accident, and the consequences of it, perplex me a good deal; but it was unavoidable: for so faithful an old servant could not be sent out of the house, unless inhumanity had guided me; which I hope will never be the case, though I forfeit my own pleasure; for I cannot ask to see you and Lord Dudley, where I could not lodge you. I have literally but one spare bed at present, and that is used by Dr. Wall when he comes to the sick man.—I never till now wished for a spacious habitation: my small one was sufficient for my use, and fully satisfied my ambition; but now that it banishes my friends, it is insupportable to me: it is, however, but for a time, and *that*, I hope, a *short one*. As soon as these difficulties are removed, I will acquaint you

you of it for my own sake. In the mean time, be pleased to present my compliments to Lord Dudley and Miss Lea, and acquaint his Lordship of my disappointment.—Mr. Outing presents his compliments to you, and asks your commands to London, where he is obliged to go soon.—I am most sincerely, dear Sir,

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R LXXXVIII.

DEAR SIR, Barrells, November 6th, 1752.

IT is both kind and polite of you to send so far to enquire after my honest old servant Price: but the answer is such as I believe you guess:—He is no more. It pleased God to release him from his misery, but not till yesterday morning, at two or three o'clock. He had his senses to the last, and made his will. We propose to bury him on Wednesday. I have sent into Herefordshire for Mr. Smith, the

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Clergyman you saw here. My hurry, and the confusion of my house, has been very great, and is not yet at an end: The having almost all new servants makes it lay harder upon me.

—Mr. Outing was to have gone for London to-day; but does not go till next Monday, and desires his best compliments to you.

If you see Mr. Pixall, pray say that I do not mean to give two guineas for a fender; and I even think I need not have any bought: but would be glad of a small grate; and I am obliged to him for the trouble of getting the things made which I bespoke.—My great Parlour looks very handsome now it is painted with flake-white.

Thanks for your Stanza to Admiral Smith, which is genteel and elegant. You are happy in having neighbours deserving of your panegyrics.—Mrs. Dillon's beauty claims a considerable place among them.—I can scarcely form an idea of Lady Lyttelton presiding over a Dairy, any more than I should of the venerable Dean, if you told me he preferred a modern Guinea to a copper Otho.

My best compliments pray, at the Grange; and hope the visit intended me, though postponed, will be made ere long.

I send you Mrs. Wymondesfold's compliments

318 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

ments to you, and her reasons for not coming to me at present, in her own hand-writing, to the perusal of which I leave you, after assuring you that I am, dear Sir,

Your ever obliged and faithful

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Sir Peter Soame wrote me his compliments for you.

L E T T E R LXXXIX.

DEAR SIR, Barrells, November 27th, 1752.

I THINK it long since I heard from you; and write this only to enquire after you, and to say that I hope it will not be long before I have the pleasure of seeing you and Lord Dudley here.

It seems the Pediment for Venus's Temple has been finished and brought hither these nine months. I have desired Mr. Hands to defer erecting it till you come, since it has not been done before, by my being ignorant of its being here.

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LETTERS.

319

Lord and Lady Plymouth dined here last week, and Mrs. Kendal made me a visit two days before; except which, solitude has reigned triumphant here: but, whether with or without company, I feel myself equally attached to my friends; and, in consequence, must ever be, dear Sir,

Your faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S. I write in a hurry by my waggon which goes for coals.

I have not heard from Mr. Outing since he went to London.

LETTER XC.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, December 4th, 1752.

THAT you are two letters in my debt I do not reproach you; for the last which I inclosed to Mr. Williams, I imagine neither *you* nor *he* ever received. It was to ask if I should not now be favoured with your company and Lord Dudley's at Barrells? to whom I desired,
and

320 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

and do desire, my best compliments : and to prevent farther *mistakes*, or even *delays*, I send Joseph to enquire after your health, and when I may depend upon the pleasure of seeing you?—My Parterre and Shrubbery are frozen, and will yield you no pleasure : but my hearth and my heart are warm to receive my friends; which I hope you will believe, though you are only told it by fingers so 'num'd with cold, that they can scarcely say this truth, which is that I am

Your obliged and sincere friend, &c.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

When you write to Mr. Greaves, pray make my best compliments to him and to Mrs. Greaves. I owe him more civilities than I can pay, for his obliging expressions of me in the letter you shewed me, and for his remembrance of the cornel-tree, which I hope he will be able to procure, and that Mrs. Greaves has not forgot the polyanthus-root.

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LETTER XCI.

Barrells, January 11th, 1753.

DEAR SIR,

From my Bed.

THIS is, upon my honour, the first moment I have been able to hold a pen since I received your obliging letter; and I was unwilling to send without writing, or dictating at least; but I could do neither. Lane would have wrote of her own accord; and I would have permitted her, had I consulted merely good manners; but friendship would have remained unsatisfied, and the delicacy of yours might have made you suggest that I was more dangerously ill than I really was.

My disorder proceeded I believe from a cold I got the day we went to see the Monument: and after you left Barrells, it turned to a fever of a slow kind, chiefly nervous, attended with pains in my bowels, which, added to want of rest, have weakened me so much, that I have not yet crossed my room; nor have I seen a mortal except Doctor

Y

Wall

Wall and Mr. Francis Holyoak, and once Mrs. Bradley and good Mrs. Holyoak of Oldbarrow, who was so kind to sit up with me. As to Mrs. Davies, she has not enquired after me, nor have I heard from her, or of her, since you was here; nor indeed of a considerable time before: Why, I cannot tell. Whenever I do hear, I will make her your suppliant compliment, and make no doubt but you will soon be forgiven.

I rejoice that you and Lord Dudley were not the worse for your disagreeable journey. I shall, for the future, hold the Saracen's Head in great esteem for having shewn you the hospitality it once denied me.—I beg of you to make my best compliments to his Lordship, with many thanks for his kind visit, which gave me great pleasure.—Do this by letter, if he is out of the country.

Mr. and Mrs. Bradley are pleased and honoured with your kind remembrance; and it was as welcome in your Postscript as if it had been in a higher place. They, and Mr. and Mrs. Holyoak, desire their best respects and thanks for your kind invitation to the Leasowes. Miss Molly went to Worcester the day after I received your letter, and had just time to receive your commands, which she
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seems prone to obey in every particular. Her Mamma, desires you will keep your brains steady, and not think it necessary they should be affected, because she in mirth called them so: and as you prescribe rules of behaviour to her daughter, she, in return, prescribes to you to shake off the depression of spirits you complain of; and, if solitude and reflection cause it, to quit your shades for a time, and visit your friends, without admitting one reflection, till the days are long, and the sun has cheared the heart and eyes, and has brightened all gloomy ideas; for you are her favourite pupil; and she would not give a *dading* for a splenetic one. I add to this my humble request that you will con over Mr. Green's Poem called SPLEEN, or else compose one yourself, to keep you out of idleness.—*A propos*, finish the Ode you must, since I have named it to the Ducheſs of Somerſet, whose answer I inclose in this letter. As to the Green-Book, how should I trust you with it a second time? but it shall be copied.

No enemy to you shall ever find sanctuary in my house; therefore I sent the Abyssinian Hero whom you conquered, to remain your captive, and assist at your triumph, or receive death from your hands, when they are not

324 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

better employed: and his faithful harmless companion accompanies him, hoping with his musical instrument to lull your anger to sleep. —I hope they marched to the Leasowes time enough to wish you a happy new year; which I do most sincerely; and am, dear Sir,

Your ever obliged

and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Lane desires her best respects.

L E T T E R XCII.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, February 2, 1753.

IT is true the time has appeared long since I heard from you; but most of it has been a series of such very bad weather, that I would not have bought even the pleasure of a letter from you at the expence of the hazards my friend Thomas must have run in bringing it. Were I to tell him so, he would not conceive how great a compliment I paid him;

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nor can you, Sir, unless you guess at the degree of joy you afford me each time you write. Yours, at hearing from me, would perhaps be reciprocal, if I could entertain you as well: but alas! how far short am I of being able to entertain you at all! particularly at this time, that my spirits are not only depressed with what affects yours, as solitude, winter storms, and more heavy winter evenings, but also by the storm my Daughter's imprudence *her divorce* (to call it by no worse a name) has raised not only in her family, but in the world. This melancholy scene to her friends is I suppose an amusement to the public, and will shortly be a still greater one, who will divert themselves at her and her favourite's expence, whilst her Husband and Friends lament her folly.—I had a letter of condolence to-day upon this subject, which is no secret one, from the Duchess of Somerset; but, as it is a kind of sermon, I will spare you so serious an epistle, which will be more useful when your spirits are too much enlivened, (if they ever are so) than at this languid season.—I desire you will not fail to write to Mr. Greaves for the Ode, that I may keep my word with Her Grace: and when you write, assure him of my esteem, and make my compliments to his agreeable Wife.—I re-

turn the enamelled Label for a bottle, which I suppose is meant for him. The design of it is exceedingly pretty; and I should not so long have deprived him of the pleasure of seeing it, had I not waited for your servant to carry it safe, who, by the way, was so kind to bring me a pretty large book from Aris, who bound it for me: it is called "Memoirs of several learned Ladies of Great Britain." I have not read it; and should not have subscribed to it, but to oblige a Lady who desired me, having no idea of its merit; therefore I do not send it you: besides, how should trusty Tom be able to carry that, and with it thirteen more things I load him with, to leave at Birmingham? viz. 1st, a jack for boots; 2dly, a reading-desk; 3dly, a cribbage-board; 4thly, a pair of snuffers; 5thly, a ruler; 6thly, an eighteen-inch rule; three pair of nutcrackers make nine things; a lemon-squeezer, ten; two candlesticks make twelve; a piquet-board, thirteen:—but lest you should think the burthen too great for your man or your horse, be it known that these thirteen useful things go all into one coat-pocket, and are made out of one piece of mahogany, eighteen inches long, when open, nine when shut, and barely five broad. Mr. John Reynolds brought this Proteus

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teus yesterday to shew me, and I send it to have one made by it, first, for the curiosity of this maggoty invention; secondly, for the use of it, when it is in the shape of a reading-desk. I saw him take his boots off with it with ease; and I believe it is equally good as a lemon-squeezer. I think a place might be contrived to let in a small ink-bottle and a pen: but as it was invented by a *General*, that utensil gave place to others more immediately necessary to his profession.

But now for Egotism (for you ask after me, and must be obeyed): I have never been below stairs since I wrote to you last, and never but once since I saw you, and that was so long ago as New-year's-day, when I went down, for a very few dull hours, and have been ill since; but am now pretty well; and my lower rooms have had fires made in them some days, by way of preparing them for the reception of my person, which moves but slowly towards them; though I believe I shall go down the ladder, if any charitable person comes to receive me at the bottom. I expected it would have been Mrs. Davies with her Mother-in-law, Mrs. Bartlet, for whom I offered to send my chaise to-morrow; but they choose to defer their visit one or two days. As to Mrs. Holy-

oak, who *was* a very chearful neighbour, she has never been here since the death of her second son (whose death, by the way, is rather good than ill fortune to his family); and Mr. Holyoak has been here but once, though it is above six weeks ago; and Miss Molly lives at Worcester.—Mr. Allen is dead.—Mr. Bradley has been at London, but called on me yesterday; as did Dr. Wall on Sunday, who tells me a turnpike-road is to be made (by an Act of Parliament promoted by Sir George Lyttelton) from Stourbridge to Bromsgrove; and, by Lord Plymouth's desire, on to *Hewell*, and to Crabbs Crosse; which last place is but six miles off; and from it one enters upon the Ridgeway. You see how I study the topography of the country, and all in order to facilitate the agreeable visits I propose annually to make to the Leafowes. You, who do not travel with four-wheeled vehicles, want not such helps: Why then come you not? Pray answer, *I come*, and be as good as your word. It is true the invitation is mercenary, and nothing as yet makes Barrells a desirable residence: the Aviary is unpeopled, the Garden produces only snow-drops, crocuses, &c. and all the melody of the Grove is the voice of rooks; but seeing them build (which they have begun to do) introduces
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Spring, or at least the hopes of its quick appearance, as it is approaching so near—Next week Mrs. Davies will be here, who, when she is in spirits herself, enlivens others : come then and partake of her gaiety, as I shall have nothing else so good to offer you ; for at present I am acquainted only with smoaky chimnies, and various kinds of bad weather, which, for want of company, makes me lead directly the life of a dormouse.—I shall certainly grow to my chair, or become lethargic, if my friends do not take compassion on me. As to my only near neighbours, I give up the thoughts of expecting it ; for I neither see nor hear any thing from them, but by their servant-boy, who comes regularly three times a week to desire the News-paper.

Au reste, (according to the French phrase) I send you to read Mademoiselle de Maintenon's Letters in the original : you shall see the English translation, if you please ; but the stile in French is as good as the sense, which is a double profit to the reader. I also send (but with some reluctance, because I have scrawled family things in the margin ; which I do not intend any should see, but such a friend as you) the Life of Lord Bolingbroke, which
interests

interests me, as he was my Brother: perhaps it may not interest you; in which case you need not read it.—Neither Poetry nor Plays have approached me of a long season; and news I learn only from the worst hands, viz. the news-paper writers. My correspondents are few: the Duchess of Somerset is too much retired to hear of what passes, and is too much wrapt up in religious and moral reflections to admit of other subjects in her letters.—Sir William Meredith and his Sisters are not yet arrived at London. Sir Peter Soame lives almost always in the country; and Outing is too lazy to write a line more than he is obliged to. Happy would you be if I were so too, who have wrote so much, that there is room for no more, but that I am, with unfashionable sincerity,

Your obliged humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER

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LETTER XCIII.

From my Smoaky Room, on this
First Day of April, 1753.

BE it known that I am angry: I would even say *very* angry, but *that* you would not believe, since I *write* and *send* to the person who has offended me; meaning, dear Sir, your identical self, who have neither answered my last letter, nor come to visit my Hermitage, though pressingly invited. I offered you Mrs. Davies's company, as being more chearful than my own; but she is gone (after a month's stay): so now it is incumbent upon you to do penance here on this spot to atone for your past fault: and penance it will be, as I am quite alone in this dull habitation. But remember it is Lent, and the visit will be a meritorious action. As to my own merit, (if any there be in retirement) it will all be lost; for such agreeable company and conversation will turn Lent into a festival; but let it do so, I will run the risk of the punishment, if you, Sir, will make the pilgrimage. At this season methinks my Shrubbery ought to invite you; but

332 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

to *myself* it is unknown; and all the intelligence I have from it is by a few snowdrops and polyanthuses, which are daily sent as ambassadors into my chamber, tied up in a nosegay, but in no ways inviting, though joined with the *kind* laurestinus, who is indeed a *friend in distress*, (as you called him) and is most welcome in winter: but I could almost wish to have him out of sight, and even the *Robin's* sweet note out of hearing, as they remind me of the melancholy winter that is scarcely past; and nothing agreeable as yet denotes approaching Spring. I set Mrs. Davies to transcribe the Green Book, and began it myself: it was not quite finished, so she carried it to Stratford; but it is safe, and almost done, and you shall have the copy. But where are the pretty paintings I was to have? You see how covetous I am, and how a little received makes me grasp at more: but as covetousness is insatiable, so is your fund of supplying it inexhaustible.

I expect Sir William Meredith soon, who will I hope tell me news, or bring me new things to read; all which is uncertain: in the mean time, I have read the *Gamester* and the *Brothers*, and a book called *Manners*. As to the *Gamester*, you have undoubtedly read it:

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it is true it draws tears, and seems adapted to do good, which I heartily wish it may; but it is much upon a footing with *George Barnwell*; and in my mind, the heroine's generosity and good nature is rather overstrained: but those who paint for the stage must draw larger than life. The *Brothers* I have also read, and believe it to be a well-wrote piece; but as it is poetry, you are the best judge. I find it is liked, and, I think, with reason. The Bricklayer's performance is a surprizing one in him, and has to be sure infinitely more spirit than the other tragedy called also *The Earl of Essex*; but I never was fond of the subject. As these plays will fill but a corner of my servant's pockets, I send them, though well persuaded you must have read them; but he can easily bring them back. With them goes Voltaire's Defence of my Brother Bolingbroke's Letters, &c.

Did your man shew you the little jack for boots, and all the apparatus? If it is at Birmingham to be copied for me, Joseph may ask after it; for I order him to return that way with a compliment to my relation Captain Somerville, who is quartered there, and who lay here with Mr. John Reynalds a week ago: it is Lord Somerville's eldest Son I mean; he

Henry Jones a native of Drogheda - he imposed a line of verse & a line of buckles on me till I christened him & sent him to Ireland who patronized him & brought him to England where he wrote for the Stage - With an overbearing spirit, and prodigal disposition he died in great want in a garret in the Bedford Coffee House 1770

334 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

whom you may perchance have seen at Edstone: he longs to see the Leasowes, and has almost as many good qualities as that place has beauties. I find *your* Beauty Lady Diana Egerton is married, but not to the lover I saw her with the last season that I was at Bath.—Mr. Outing is, I believe, at London, in Charles Court; but not an echo speaks his name to me, nor does a postboy bring a line from him. I would leave him to his contemplations or his non-occupations, had not some particular business, urged by Lord Luxborough, obliged me to write, to convey a letter from the latter to him; so there are hopes that we shall hear once more of him, and even from him; but I will not answer for it. Jack Reynalds says, “to be sure he is going to be married to his friend “Captain Swete’s rich widow.”

How does Mr. Greaves and his agreeable Wife? My query is not interested; though I confess I wish for the pretty polyanthus root I saw there, which Mrs. Greaves politely offered me.

Alas! will no Christian be so charitable as to bestow one single pen capable of writing, upon a destitute scribe? No! then farewell

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H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER XCIV.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, May 12th, 1753.

YOU may be certain that I have been ill, since you have not had a letter from me of so long a time; for, next to conversing with you, nothing pleases me so much as corresponding with you by letter. When Mr. Pixell was last here, I was so little able to answer the obliging letter you wrote by him, that I could not so much as see him; for I was in bed all day. I should have rejoiced to have contributed towards his Son's success, in what he desired to obtain at Stratford; but unfortunately I have no interest there: Mrs. Kendall gone to Lord Exeter's, and Mrs. Davies gone to London,—to whom could I apply? (for Mr. Payton he was sure of before, as well as of Mr. Kendrick) yet I did venture to write
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to Mr. Brigham and Mrs. Bartlet : the former was from home, but has since sent me the inclosed answer ; and Mrs. Davies has also wrote me a line about it, which I inclose. I advised with Mr. John Reynalds about the affair, who said there was no way he knew of, but for Mr. Pixell, the Father, to go and canvass, and get nine or ten Aldermen together and make them drunk, and consequently they would be friends to his Son.—It is too true that this kind of proceeding prevails in England much sooner than merit.

I find your neighbours and mine echo each other, *Air and exercise ! air and exercise !* and we no sooner obey but we get cold, and become incapable of even taking the air and exercise which the house and gardens afford. I am sure I find it so ; for though I am better in health, I have such a violent pain in my face and teeth, that I can get no sleep, nor apply myself to any thing. This, added to my lowness of spirits, will certainly inspire me with very *bright thoughts* to adorn my letter ! but if dulness is my lot, I cannot help it, and you are too candid not to pardon me, though I 'numb you with it.

I sent my horses to London last Wednesday to fetch Mrs. Davies and my new post-chariot.

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I expect to see them on Monday at farthest, and then will take from her the copies she has wrote out of your Green Book, which she locked up at Stratford before she went her journey. Your *other Green Book* is a curiosity more worthy Dean Lyttelton; but is far from diminishing my real value for the unadorned, unembellished, un-illuminated Green Book, which you allow me to call my own.—But to return to the last Green Book: I must say it is beautifully illuminated, and the gilding is, in my mind, surprizingly well laid on; and as to the price, you must have paid the man with indulgences; for the money you gave is in no ways adequate to the value. I never saw but one like it, and it is the property of Sir William Meredith, whose merit you extol in six as elegant lines as I ever read. I want to see the whole copy of verses complete; and I much want to see you two here together. If I have not that satisfaction, the fault will be yours.—I expect him soon. He is at Wigan in Lancashire, making interest to be chosen Member of Parliament: his Sisters are at London in a new house he has taken, except the Countess Ferrers, who is already gone out of town, and I believe was there but a few weeks.

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I congratulate you upon Mr. Hylton's becoming your neighbour: he seemed to me of a gentle disposition, and capable of being a good friend, as well as desirous of becoming one by his obliging behaviour.—Your correspondence with Lord Dudley cannot be otherwise than amusing and instructive; for you say you *seldom write to him, and never hear from him*. I imagine the case is much the same between you and Outing; from whom I hear occasionally, but seldom; and scarcely ever but upon business. Mr. Reynolds tells me he still complains of his pupil, who is not yet gone to sea.—The two Captains Somerville are at Litchfield on account of the Review.

P. S. The *Moralities* and *Crito* I send back: the former is certainly *trite-issimo*; the latter is the reverse. I have read with pleasure the new Translation from *Salez* of the Conquest of Mexico, corrected by Mr. Hook, Author of the Roman History; and find it sets that event in a new light by the old author, and in much newer and better language than we have ever seen it before, by means of the new translation. —What you say of Mademoiselle Maintenon's Letters is perfectly true; but I could not have known how to say it, though I felt it; so little
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of a critic am I; and yet I think I could criticize upon her sentiments, which, when compared with her actions, seem not a little hypocritical. We shall see her Life in print shortly, and then we may judge better, if it is wrote fairly.

I just now have sent for the *learned Mr. Hume*, my Gardener, to consult about your hot-bed for melons. He assures me it is too late to aim at having any *this* year; but will direct your man how to proceed against the *next*. Had you wrote about it in your last letter, I could not only have assisted you with advice, but also with seeds and plants.—I have exceeding fine anemonies, but the Gardener says they will die long before they get to you; otherwise you should have had a *posse to wear on your breast*.—I am promised a cornel tree; but must wait till September.

I could laugh (if you would forgive it) at you and your *apothetary*; the one fears the steeple will fall on his head, and therefore dreads the sound of the bells: the other lives a mile or two off, and gives money to have those bells made harmonious, though he cannot hear them: the latter has to be sure a more public spirit, and the other a more prudential one, according to the self-interested scheme of

340 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

things. Upon the whole, I vote for no bells ringing when Lord Dudley comes into the country, but those pretty ones I was so fond of hearing in your hall; and methinks I would go and join chorus,

"Down with your Caps to the Ground, Boys:"

but first, Sir, be pleased to come here, and see the spontaneous beauties of my Coppice; for you never come till they have run their race, and are no more. In short, if you will not come soon, I will not go to the Leafowes at all. By the way in which you take this threat, I shall know if you choose my company.—Be so good as to let my Gardener see Lord Dudley's Green-House and Hot-Houses: he begged leave to see the Leafowes; and as you had asked him, I could not well refuse.

Your idea of the ink-stand's preventing the new machine from being useful as a pair of breeches, made me laugh (though alone) so loud, that Lane heard me. She presents her respects, and I my affectionate compliments.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

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L E T T E R XCV.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, June 23-4, 1753.

YOUR two letters arriving almost in the same minute, roused me in some measure out of the lethargic disposition, or rather the heavy stupefaction I have been oppressed with some time, notwithstanding what I have suffered, and do suffer, by a violent pain in my face and teeth, enough to have given spirits, though not by an agreeable method; whereas mine are as dejected as you can possibly imagine; and I see no immediate reason to hope their speedy amendment.

I very seldom have visited my Shrubbery; and have then been obliged to be often supported, or to sit down: and as to my new chaise, (which is a chariot, or rather a landaulet, only drawn as a post-chaise) I have been in it but twice, and then forced in. The last time was only to Oldbarrow, about four days ago, and have not recovered the fatigue yet, nor been down stairs but once. This grim description of myself will not recommend me

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as a companion or a correspondent; but I am equally a friend; for my sentiments, thank God, are not infected, though my spirits and body suffer. I am sorry you are inclinable to such dejection, which I know so well how to pity: but hope you will shake it off with more ease, and that I shall see you brisk and bonny at this place ere long, with your good and agreeable Friend.

I will not fail to send your packet to the Duchess of Somerset, and to obey all your commands; but it is too big for the post.—I have read the Ode, and think it can receive no amendment.

I understand that Mr. Hylton and Miss Rock both come down with Lord Dudley, and that Miss L— is jealous of Miss R—, who it seems is very pretty; and that they are to stop in Buckinghamshire, in their way.

The plural number concerning letters, in the first line of mine, may puzzle you; but means the letter you sent me to-day by trusty Thomas, as also that you wrote (in part to me) to Mrs. Davies, dated the 9th, which she sent for my perusal just before your servant came in; and it rejoiced me to find you had remembered, when I feared the contrary. I have never seen

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her since her return from London, but for about six days. She pleads much company and occupation at Stratford. In short, I am as desolate as Robinson Crusoe, even when he had not his man Friday.

Being really too weak to finish copying the Green Book, I send as far as Mrs. Davies wrote, and the titles of the remainder.

The notion of a turnpike pleases me much, hoping it facilitates the way to the Leasowes: but you should have gone to Hagley. I preach, you find; but how do I practise? Helas!—Lady Plymouth, Lady Archer, &c. are in the neighbourhood, and I in my chimney-corner.

I wish I could see Mrs. Donolly's Accusation, and Mr. Outing's Vindication, in a Magazine.

Adieu. So bad a pen, so bad a head, so bad spirits, ought not to trouble you longer: yet, under all these distresses, you will ever find me

Your most faithful

and obliged friend

and humble servant,

Z 4

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Upon second thoughts, I have desired your man to carry the little machine to the Leasowes, as you may be curious to see it; from whence he can convey it to Mr. Cotterell at Birmingham, desiring him to make me one as soon as possible, and to make the joint go quite easy, which, by false workmanship, this model does not. If an ink-horn and pen could be introduced, it would do well, and the whole should be lighter.

L E T T E R X C V I .

DEAR SIR, Barrells, September 12th, 1753.

AS you kindly express a desire to hear from me, I imagine one or two lines from my own hand will be more satisfactory than more lines by the hand of any other person. I therefore tell you myself, that I am *tolerably* well; I might say *very* well, if I had more strength; but that nervous disorder, which has long affected my spirits, and which affected my limbs (particularly my hands) when at Bath, is descended to my legs, which have been
much

much swelled about the ancles, and made me and my friends apprehend the consequence, as they pitted a good deal; but they are now fallen, and I can walk pretty well alone in a room; but must still be lifted off my chair, and into my landaulet, in which I go three or four miles in a day for the air, and back again, without going into any house; and I lay still below stairs. The worst effect of all these complaints is my being deprived of the pleasure of ranging over the charming Lea-fowes all day, and of enjoying your conversation there; but, lest you should think me worse than I am, I must tell you that I am just come into the house from the Summer-house, where I drank tea with Mrs. Bartlet, Mrs. Davies, Mr. Holyoak, and Mr. John Reynolds: the two latter we have left at bowls by moon-light. I was led up the slopes, but walk on plain ground; so that it is plain I mend; and next time I write to you, I think to do it with my foot; for that cannot perform worse than my hand and pen do at present.

I think the inundation of fine company you have had at the Lea-fowes must have been an additional ornament to that charming place; and the place must have given them real pleasure, as they are people of taste.—All the
beauty

346 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

beauty Miss Banks may boast of, cannot have effaced the other beauties which your Grove presented to your company, and which winter has spared as yet; but beware of what impression her charms may have made upon your heart, if they gained admittance there, as is feared: but pray who is the said Lady, and where does the enchantress dwell?

Adieu. The supper-bell calls; the company waits. I resolve to endeavour to follow your good advice whilst the weather is tolerable; and am in all seasons

Your most obliged
and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I wait impatiently for the letter you promise me from Mr. Hylton.—My compliments, pray, to Lord Dudley, &c. &c.

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LETTER XCVII.

DEAR SIR, September 18th at Night, 1753.

EVERY instance of your partial friendship gives me a pleasure, which would be perfect, was it not attended by the consciousness of not meriting that partiality which I am proud of. This reflection humbles me; and I must own that what you call *brightness* in me, is only borrowed, as that of the moon; and is owing to your neighbourhood, and even to your correspondence; which when I am deprived of, I remain a dull inanimate lump.—Your concern for my health shews your good nature; which I ought to repay by following your advice: but the weather often obstructs my performances in my post-chaise, which I think were to be very frequent, according to your prescription and Sir Peter Soame's; but I go frequently as far as my neighbour Mrs. Bradley's, who is not able to come to me at present, being near lying-in. As to my visit to the Leasowes, I want neither your persuasions, nor Dr. Wall's advice, to induce me to it; my own inclination biasing me that way
more

more than any bribe could bias a mercenary voter at an election; so that a sun-shiny week, a continuance of my present degree of health, and a little better use of my legs, would certainly suffer me to be attracted by the charms of the *renowned Leasowes*, whose power draws *Beaux, Belles, Poets, Senators, &c.* to pay homage to them. Glad I am that so much good taste is left in our nation; and proud I am that I had just enough to discover its beauties before it had received the benefit of the polishing you have since bestowed upon it. Nature and you went hand in hand to perfect it. Nature will persist in her work.—Pray do not you be idle, but let the applause of the polite encourage you. Nay, let Miss Peggy B—ks's 100,000*l.* cast in a mite to embellish what you have so well begun, and so near accomplished. Where do you fish for these *Golden Ladies*, whose merit outweighs their purse? I wish you such a partner for life, unless celibacy be your choice. The Lady (who is a stranger to me) little thinks how much she is obliged to me.

Though you have not answered Mrs. Davies's letter, she, to shew that she bears no gall, sends you her best compliments; and is 'numbing her fingers to transcribe a few lines more
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of your Green Book, to send you by trusty Tom, with a melon, which my Gardener does not boast of, but we hope it may prove eatable. Had he any better, they should be laid at your feet by his good will, as well as mine.

I wish my pen could keep pace with my thoughts; your letter would be answered more fully; but you know my hands and legs have not been of late famous for agility: yet you encourage me greatly as to one of my inabilities, by telling me that most of your visitants are *miserable walkers*; and I shall plume myself with the remembrance of having been a better one not long since, which enabled me to partake of the distant as well as of the near prospects of your farm, and will again restore me, as I hope, to that of visiting every corner of your Grove at least: the other wood might be too aspiring; so I dare not mention it, but shall admire it with uplifted eyes.

Now for the Election. As to the particular answer to every point which I could have wished to send you, I must be deficient tonight. You sent late. I am ignorant so much as of Mr. Coventry's friends or his enemies. I will speak to the Oldbarrow people to sound them to-morrow, and will write and send to you about Thursday, with all the intelligence I can get:

350 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

get: but alas! the intelligence you may expect from an Hermitess, you could not sell for half a nut-shell.

I am greatly obliged to Sir George Lyttelton for his enquiry after my health; and the more so, as I always had the greatest respect for him.

As for you, Sir, you want not, I hope, fresh assurances of my friendship; and for proofs of it, let but fortune put it in my power, and do you command as hastily as you please, you shall be obeyed by

Your faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R XCVIII.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, September 27th, 1751.

W H E N your servant was last here, I could not send you a positive answer, nor indeed any answer about the Oldbarrow Voters for the county of Worcester; for indeed I live so much retired, that I am seldom in-
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formed of what passes but by the news-papers, which I think have not mentioned that election. Ever since I received yours, I have been anxious to enquire who were the voters in my neighbourhood, that I might have an opportunity of obliging you; as also Lord Dudley and Sir George Lyttelton; for both which I have the greatest regard and esteem. By means of Mr. Holyoak I got some names of freeholders, with whom both he and I will use our interest in favour of Mr. Coventry. If you know of any besides those named in this list, be pleased to send me their names. Lord Archer made me a visit to-day: I spoke to him upon this affair, and found that he and Lord Plymouth were in the interest of Mr. Coventry as strongly as we could wish; however, I gave him, by his own desire, the inclosed little list which I got from Mr. Holyoak. As to Mr. Packwood, Lord Archer and we suppose him to be engaged on the other side. There are voters, who live at Tanworth: I make no doubt but Lord Archer secures them, as he appears to be zealous in the cause.

Mr. Holyoak desires his compliments to you, and says he is wholly at your service for whatever interest he can make: and you give me pleasure by affording me an occasion of
proving

352 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

proving to you the sincerity with which I always profess myself, Dear Sir,

Your obliged and most
humble servant and friend,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

N. B. Lord Luxborough has an estate at Oldbarrow, which he bought of Mr. Thomas Holyoak, deceased.

L E T T E R XCIX.

DEAR SIR, Batrells, November 12th, 1753.

I CANNOT forbear reflecting upon your kindness to your friends in general, and to me in particular. Your obliging letter came just *à propos* to rouse me from an unpleasing, inactive, and worse than lethargic state of body; for as to my mind, it is ever waking and intent upon my friends; nor do they lose one scruple of the regard I owe them, by my not expressing it with my pen; nor do they lose an instant of pleasure by my silence; for what can I say to please, who hear nothing to please myself? But no more of this.—Be assured my friendship

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retains its full weight, and is neither *estranged* from you, nor in the least diminished. Your merit and my esteem secure it yours.

I am ashamed of myself when I name your Ode. I am guilty, I confess; of having deprived Her Grace of it long; but I am also innocent of any artifice in my seeming neglect; only I did not meet with any body I could trust with it that was going towards Her Grace's habitation, and the little book was too big and heavy for a frank; but at last I have sent it, and hope to give you her answer about Doddsley's printing it ere long; and in the mean time flatter myself no false edition by piracy, &c. can happen to be published: be that as it will, I shall take the blame upon myself for my delay, and shall excuse you to my Friend the Duchess of Somerset; who is too benign to accuse us, as she must know we mean her well; and I do not doubt but she will permit Doddsley to print it, and that with pleasure. You was kind in contributing something of Mr. Whittler's and Mr. Graves's to his Miscellanies: Would I were capable of adding a line to them worth reading! but I am no Poetess: if I was, the Leasowes and its Owner should still be my theme.

Mrs. Davies has left me to horrid solitude;

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but has left the rest of your Poems, which I inclose. You will, methinks, stare at the epithet *horrid* which I have annexed to *solitude*; as that used to please me, and be called *sweet* at least: but changes of one kind bring on changes of another, even without being owing to fickleness, as my life has proved to me; yet my tastes are the same; and I had rather now deck a rural bower than glitter on a birthnight at court: but as we are all made for society, the loss of neighbours and of limbs, make these bowers more irksome than inviting. I am, however, much better in health and limbs than when you saw me, and do not despair of measuring your walks once more at least with my steps: provided you come in the mean time to do the same to mine; why not? Winter is your season of appearing: the Leasowes has too many charms, and attracts too good company to be left in Summer: but our country hearts and hearths may be as honest, pert, and jovial, as any your parishioners can afford you; and at *more* we shall not aspire—Come else and see. Outing will be here soon, I suppose; for the roads of the Vale of Evesham frighten him from the thoughts of coming from Somervile's Aston hither, when they are at the worst. Parson Holyoak went with

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with him thither, and staid a few days; and also went to Hewell with him, where (according to the news-paper's phrase) they were *most graciously received*.—The *great* Mr. West of the Treasury sent his gardener to-day to view my small Garden and my Walks; which I wonder at, as himself had seen them before, and must know they would not teach or serve as examples to his servant.

I did not think of making *more last words*; but I cannot go to bed without congratulating you upon the polite company you have received at the Leasowes. I am vain methinks that what I so much approved when in its cradle, should become the resort and envy of the *beau monde*, in spite of the roads and weather.

I am glad you do Lord Plymouth's good nature and politeness the justice it deserves. I had a few lines from him and his Lady to-day; she is a deserving and amiable woman. I am glad you will advise as to their improvements without doors; for they intend right as to the inside. *Mais les pauvres environs resteront en default*. The approach of the waters to the house will, I fear, produce more agues than good fish, or pleasant views to the place. I am much obliged to Sir George Lyttelton; had I

power, he might command it, or you for him.

I hear the opposition as to the Election is stopped, and hear it with pleasure. I envy you some of your company more than that of your antediluvian, though Reverend, *Beed*, and that of your Gothic, though modern, Miller.—I am glad Hagley is to stand in a rational place, as it has a rational master, and has lost its irrational controller, the late gardener of it.

I cannot be sorry Mr. Hylton has *hauled* his thousand pounds back, or is so to do. It is far better to *haul* his money, than a *pertuisane*, or whatever else is the name of the tall thing they haul. As to *the bottle*, and what was *over the bottle*, you may assure him I never ventured to let Mr. Ou—g see it; for what might have ensued? No, Sir, I would not offend any *officer* in the King's troops.

I am sorry Lord Dudley's toe has been so offended by his *bed's foot*, of which he should be cautious for the future, as I fear the damages would rather upon trial fall on his Lordship than on *that* offender. I beg my best respects to his Lordship.

Parson Holyoak, &c. are your obedient servants. Mrs Bradley is recovering from a dangerous lying-in; and Mrs. Davies is at present

LETTERS. 357

present with her. Farther than this my intelligence goeth not. I wonder you choose a correspondent of so small a share of intelligence, so barren a genius, and such confined ideas as belong to her, who is with a more expanded heart, Dear Sir,

Your most faithful
and most grateful humble servant,
H. LUXBOROUGH.

Compliments, pray, to all your neighbours who remember me. You would have the like from hence, if neighbours I had.

LETTER C.

Barrells, Monday Night, November 26th, 1753.

DEAR SIR,

AN hour ago I received the inclosed from our Duchefs, and thought it incumbent upon me to let you see it as soon as possible; and hastened to send it the, rather lest the direction Her Grace had fished for twelve miles off, might not be the true one, and so we

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358 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

all might become the pastime of postmen and postwomen : for what has been may be ; which the Lord avert !

You observe the Duchess forbids her name, or that of Percy-Lodge, to be made public : I dare say you will obey her orders. I am glad, for Doddsley's sake, and for many more reasons, that she has not forbid printing the Poem.

Your Governess Mrs. Holyoak is here, and desires, first, her humblest compliments, and, secondly, enjoins her strictest commands that you leave your chimney-corner, since all your fine company has left you. I join with her ; and though my merit is small, yet I am proud enough to desire the preference before your parishioners, who are the persons you seem to have chosen to be your winter companions. Mr. Holyoak is also here, who desires his best compliments. *Outing* is at the *Hospitable House*, Somervile's Aston ; and they are deserted by Sir Robert Cocks, who is gone to Bath. I would accompany this with some entertaining ballad, elegy, or epithalamium ; but where must I find them ? Not in my own head, I am sure : so you must expect no poetry from me till the Henley bellman has gone his Christmas round ; and ere then I hope you will hear him utter his *elbowicks* here,

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Lord Plymouth's workmen have left them *one* habitable room till after Christmas, (no longer) as his Lady writes me word.—I have not had the pleasure of receiving Mr. Hylton's intended epistle; but am of opinion that his stile does not require so long a delay to make his correspondence appear the more valuable. Let him write as he speaks, and his letters will be agreeable to me.

What more have I to say? I *think*, and *think in vain*.—Yes; I must tell you, that I am so much better than when you saw me, that you would be surpris'd.—My heart is always the same; that is, affectionate towards my friends: judge then whether I can cease to be

Your faithful friend

and humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Send back the Duchess's letter, pray.—Mrs. Davies is still at Mrs. Bradley's, as I hear.—My compliments to all your good neighbours.—Perhaps Lord Dudley is gone to Parliament.

I am glad my favourite room is honoured by your books; and think the bed (as you have contrived it) no detriment to the elegance of it, though a considerable convenience to the place.

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H. L.

Mr. Hylton need not be ashamed to write to me : late or early, I shall be glad to hear from him,

L E T T E R C I.

Barrells, Wednesday Night, December 12th, 1753;

DEAR SIR,

THOUGH I undertake to write to you to-night, I do not know how my letter is to be waisted to Birmingham, unless some kind Sylph offers her service; the terrestrial messengers not being able to travel, at least not in this country, where it snows, rains, and freezes, not alternately, but at the same time. Is that your case in Shropshire? If so, I pity you; but I think you and I, who have not much else to do, should utter our lamentations to each other from the corners of the same chimney. Sharing the burthen of winter would be lessening it to each of us. I cannot go to the Leaſowes; *ergo* you must come to Barrells, or we cannot meet. Is not this true reasoning? You will say (and perhaps with truth) that it is

is like an invitation to a funeral; which, I am persuaded, is a compliment most people would be glad not to receive; but though it could not entertain you to accept of such an invitation, it would illustrate your friendly qualities, by affording you an opportunity of giving, rather than of receiving, pleasure. The word *pleasure* reminds me that I have received a very agreeable epistle from your Friend Mr. Hylton, whose loss of a place at Court does not seem to sit heavy upon him. It is no more than I expected from the good sense I observed in him.

I return you the Duchess of Somerset's letter; and have methinks too long forborne scolding you for imagining Her Grace's meaning to be that you should not print your Poem upon Rural Taste. On the contrary, she is, I am sure, proud of its being inscribed to her, though too bashful, in her retirement, to choose her name to be at the head of it; yet well knowing with inward satisfaction, that every body will know she is the Heroine of the piece, as much as one knows who was Waller's Saccharissa, without reading her real name at the top. Had our Duchess not intended you should publish it, what need had she to enjoin *stars* or *slashes* instead of her and of her habitation's names?

Do not deprive the public of the pleasure they would have in reading it, and do not deprive Her Grace of the compliment you intended her, and which so much seems to please her, both by the letters she writes to me as well as to yourself about it. In answer to your question, I can sincerely assure you, that I never once thought of the Duchess's refusal, nor do I call it one now; and am certain she means no more than what she expresses to you about suppressing her name; so that your *vanity*, were it ever so great, would not be really hurt by this, which your *imagination* only deems a disappointment.

Your Verses to Lady Plymouth (whose name is Catherine) please me greatly, and she as greatly merits your praise. Your expression in the last line ought to be far from displeasing Lord Plymouth, and is, in my mind, more proper and more elegant than any feigned name you could give him. I cannot but say I should rather wish the inscription, being to a Lady, had been in English. Could not that have been, and yet Horace's Latin motto have been preserved? but I am no critic, having neither capacity nor inclination to be one; so that what I say upon such subjects should be wrote in sand.

I con-

I congratulate Lord Dudley upon his good luck; and wish his good neighbour as profitable a *foundless* to warm himself by: Be it known that *foundless* is a Warwickshire word, as I am told: in honour to the county I use it, or should else have stolen a word from the French, and have said, *une trouvaille*, for such is a coal-mine at any time; and I speak of it the more feelingly now that I sit freezing, and can scarcely get a little coal for a great deal of money. Pray, since your county carries such profitable things in the bowels of the earth, ransack them well, and let me hear that you have found some mines or other: It is a selfish wish; for I am sure if you had those of Peru, your friends would share with you; and were it only by viewing the use you would put them to, in making them subservient to your good taste, they would afford pleasure to all who knew how to relish the works of taste; and as to the misers, let them avaunt.—Your *Governess* and I are parted by floods: and *Deadings* are no more, for this season at least; but they will still live in verse, if *you* employ your pen in their praise.

Since you are so favoured by Apollo and the Muses, that you can dream in verse, you ought not to be niggardly of them. I want to
see

see what alterations Somnus or Morpheus have made in the pretty lines you wrote here in the year 1747: They would not easily find what to mend.

Adieu. The wind blows; I shiver; my ink freezes; my pen wants mending: so again adieu.

Sincerely yours,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER CII.

Barrells, Saturday, December 15th, 1753.

DEAR SIR,

SOME malicious fiend or other has surely, by way of Christmas gambol, entertained himself by resolving to marr our correspondence, and to thwart whatever you or I have innocently projected for our amusement: and what I less forgive is, that when I mean to show my gratitude for your friendly attention upon all occasions, my letter is carried to London instead of Birmingham. I wrote it on Tuesday

day or Wednesday last, and inclosed the Duchess of Somerset's, which you had sent me to see. The frost came, the floods succeeded, and nobody could go; nor did I dare trust my servant and horse to the weather, and still less dared trust my letter to the curious Post-Office at Birmingham: so even changed the cover, put it in a frank, and sent it to-day to go through London to you; and it was no sooner gone past recall, but trusty Thomas brought your last obliging and entertaining letter: but, far from answering it, as I designed, I only must (and that with difficulty) return you more and more thanks for the entertainment you afford me, both by your epistle, and by Mr. Graves's lively Fable, which I return now.

—As to your Stanzas to Asteria, I am too proud of them, and too well pleased with your addition and emendations, not to value and preserve them with care both in my memory and in my best pocket-book. If I had preserved Mr. Somerville's little Poems and Impromptu's in as orderly a manner, I would have sent you a parcel to-night to pick out any you liked for Doddsley; but they are in a drawer intermixed so with other papers, that to undertake to look them out now is impossible:
besides,

besides, I have a fever fit upon me, and have not slept these two nights, and live upon wormwood draughts; which, though wholesome, do not immediately restore one to strength, or to one's usual stile or conversation. This is also the reason I must defer for a post or two answering Mr. Hylton's polite letter; which I hope he will forgive, whilst I implore my fever to leave my mind capable of deserving, by my punctual answers, the letters I am favoured with.—You will have mine I hope from London on Thursday next.—Our servants had better be a little fatigued with journies between the Leaſowes and Barrells, than we molested with impertinent Post-people, indolent or careless chance-messengers, or idle drunken farmers, who undertake to carry letters they never think of after.—Your own intended Miscellany will be higher in my esteem than Dodſley's, if his are to be deprived of your Works.—I told you my thoughts about your mistaking the Duchess of Somerset's meaning, as you will find in my travelling letter.—I shall be glad to see the *Agriculture* of Dodſley; and as to *Sir Charles Grandison*, only wait its being complete, to send for it. Mr. Hylton recommends it also.

You had better harraſs yourself than your
servants,

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servants, and let me see you this Christmas at Barrells: I asked you before; I ask you now the third time. I will send the flea you intended for Mr. Hylton, to fetch you. I can see no longer; every letter seems double; so adieu. Excuse an invalid, who is

Your faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

LETTER CIII.

Barrells, Friday, December 21st, 1753.

AN opportunity offering itself, dear Sir, of sending this letter to-morrow to Birmingham, I resolv'd without hesitation to write it; being vain enough to believe my last gave you pain; for I wrote it with a trembling hand and confus'd head, and with a fever-fit upon me. I hope you have burnt it, and will think no more of it, but to the fever's praise; which (causing me to sweat) has rais'd my spirits and suppl'd my limbs; so that I am born anew: and, if I continue in my present state, make no question but I shall see the Leafowes in Spring.

In

368 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

In the mean time, it is your task, as a Friend, to perfect this cure by giving me your company at the deserted Barrells; which place droops now, but will revive at your approach. You have used it to that sensibility in winter; so that no other company will restore it to its gaiety.—Let me know if you received yesterday my travelling letter from London. What say you to my reproaches about your manner of construing the Duchefs's letter of thanks to you about your Poem?

As to the little scriptions I have of Mr. Somerville's, they are for the most part too trivial or too local for the press. Perhaps you or Jack Reynalds may have others: however, those I have you may peruse here, and use them *à discretion*, as the French Recipes term it.

Lord and Lady Plymouth are at Umberlade, where Lady Archer has again been dying. Some inward imposthume has broke; and she goes soon to Bath, hoping perhaps to prevent its gathering again.—Mrs. Davies came here a week ago to make a formal visit, with Mrs. Kendall; whose visit was an adieu before she quits the country, which will be this Christmas, *for ever*.—Some places and things have the quality of attraction: poor Warwickshire is endowed with the reverie, or I would desire it.

to draw you from Shropshire: it *ought* to have pride enough to attempt it; but I fear it has not merit enough to succeed, unless your humanity brings you to my cell.—I think I must read *Sir C. Grandison* in my own defence; for I hear of him till I am tired. Let us read him here together. I remember I heard so much in *Tom Jones's* praise, that when I read him, I hated him. I want to see Hogarth's *Analysis of Beauty*: Mr. Outing's usual dilatoriness prevented my being a subscriber.—I see nothing new.—I hope, now the Jews' Act is repealed, the writers, who tormented us about it, will employ their pens on some more agreeable subject:—No, alas! it will be Elections: for the thick air and ale of England inspire such heavy subjects of conversation and debate; to furnish which, Gentlemen ruin their estates, instead of enjoying them gayly and hospitably (yet politely); which they do not do, though they talk of *taste* for ever; but never feel it.

I just now perceive that I am spinning out nonsense and dulness to a great length; so hasten to break the thread, by ending my tedious letter with the sincerest assurance of my being,

Dear Sir, Your most faithful
(though not most sprightly)
friend and servant,

B b

H. LUXBOROUGH.

370 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

P. S. May your Christmas be jovial, and
your days long and happy !

Remark. This Letter is a volunteer.

Quere. When does trusty Thomas come ?

L E T T E R C I V.

DEAR SIR, Barrells, January 20th, 1754.

WHETHER you are well or ill, alive
or dead ? and whether you remember
that you have a sincere Friend here, who is
impatient for the pleasure of your company,
and that you promised to come here before
this time ? are the queries I desire you to answer
by the bearer, who goes to the Leasowes on
purpose to receive those answers ; which I
hope will solve my doubts, and set my mind at
ease. You are two letters in my debt.

The *close of Christmas* is surely come ; for the
rooks are building, and confirm the *new style* ;
yet you remain by your own fire-side, regardless of
us absent mortals, who regret the want of your
company, and which you bestow perhaps upon
your parishioners ; for I imagine your neigh-
bours

bours of higher rank have abandoned *you*, as *you* do us: I say *us*, but it is improperly that I write in the plural number; for God knows I am as much alone as an Hermit; but however I shall see Mr. Outing, and, I believe, Mr. J. Reynalds here this week; which will rather I imagine hasten than retard your journey hither. Neither roads nor waters, nor wind nor frost, must be mentioned by you, since the *cautious* Mr. Outing resolves to encounter those enemies; for, though you do not wear a cockade in your hat, I believe you as courageous as he.

Adieu: I say no more; for you will come and hear whatever I have to say, if you are a man of your word; and you will take mine, I dare say, when I assure you that I am unfeignedly

Your faithful and obliged servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

The compliments of the Oldbarrow family attend you.—I have had no reply as yet from Mr. Hylton.

L E T T E R CV.

Barrells, Friday, February 8th, 1754.

DEAR SIR,

WHEN I sent my servant to the Leasowes, I was very well: when he returned, I had got a bad cold, cough, and fever. When *your* servant came here, I had lost the two latter complaints; but was still too much out of order with my cold and sore throat, to be able to hold a pen, or even to dictate; and have kept my bed several days since that; but am resolved to write now, though my eyes smart for it. Far better it is to smart than to have even the appearance of ingratitude, or of neglecting those one professes a friendship for. This is *no* florid excuse, but is the real opinion of me your culprit, who cannot so well excuse myself for the impoliteness of letting your servant go back without the Duchess of Somerset's letter, and Mr. Hylton's, which you had sent me to peruse; but the forgetfulness proceeded from having company at cards, and talking round me.—Though I congratulated Mr. Hylton upon his disappointment

ment in the affair he had engaged in, and thought he had no great loss in being deprived of the *pleasure* of carrying a *battle-ax*; yet I as sincerely regret your having missed the opportunity, which seemed to throw itself in your way, of executing a more agreeable office without toil, and one both honourable, and attended with great conveniencies to a country gentleman, who chooses to be exempted from some *stupid* or *turbulent* offices in his county. Such would have been your case, had you been Sir R. Lyttelton's Esquire, whose Brother I think should have proposed it to you. It would have been friendly, neighbourly, and in no ways doing you a pleasure at their own expence.—As to the account of your ill health, I am not disposed to believe it (pardon me, Sir, for it was *you* complained); for I think *your solitude, your want of air to breathe, objects to converse with, inclemency of weather, privation from the amusements your own taste has procured you in your own environs*; are all poisons imbibed in winter, and it is not *blisters, &c. &c.* that will expel them. Try the company of your distant friends; perhaps change of air and the exercise of travelling may perform miracles: if one place does not do, go to another; but pray begin by *this*, where I expect you daily. Mr.

Outing and I will nurse you, and the busy rooks will tell you each morning that it is time to prepare for the festivals of Spring, and to bury your complaints in old Winter's grave.

My kindest service to Mrs. Rock, whom I shall always be ready to oblige when in my power; and wish I could serve her essentially, by contributing my interest with Lady Northumberland, in conjunction with the endeavours of her other friends, to place her Daughter about Lady Betty Percy: but unfortunately I cannot be deemed a proper negociator in this affair, having some time ago resented her Ladyship's spending a considerable time in my neighbourhood both at Lord Brook's and Lord Hertford's, and passing through Henley without calling or even *sending* to me. This appeared to me unkind; and I could not forbear expressing my opinion of it to the Duchess of Somerset, who probably might speak of it to her Daughter; from whom, however, I have not heard, and to whom I have not wrote, nor would I *begin* by asking a favour: all therefore I can do is to mention Mrs. Rocks's request to the Duchess; which I will do in a few days.

Is Boadicea a good play or a bad one? I
have

have not seen nor read it.—You frighten me with the prolix stile of the Author of Sir Charles Grandison's Memoirs: so I defer reading that.—I thank you for the news articles of your letter; as also for acquainting me that Lord Dudley is well; to whom I beg my respects, and hope and sincerely wish the success of his coal-mine.

May you, Sir, gain the mines of Potosi, and yet retain your generous spirit! which will oblige others to be, as I am, (and as I was *prior to them*)

Your sincere friend

and humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R C V I.

Barrells, February 27th, 1754.

DEAR SIR,

Ash-Wednesday.

EVERY day have I been in expectation of an answer from the Dukes of Somerset to the letter I wrote Her Grace to recommend Mrs. Rock's Daughter; which I did in

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the strongest manner I was capable of. No answer is come as yet; which may be owing to Her Grace's not having had a proper opportunity of talking with the Countess of Northumberland about it. Be that as it will, I am determined not to defer longer than to-morrow sending a servant to the Leasowes to enquire after your health; but have ordered him not to set out till the post is come in, because if it should bring an answer from the Duchess in the morning, it shall go to you inclosed in this; in the mean time wishing it may be an agreeable one to Mrs. Rock, and consequently to you and myself.

The inclosed letter of request to me causes me to make one to you; which is, dear Sir, that you will mention the affair to Lord Dudley from me, in behalf of the young clergyman who writes the letter. He was once at Barrells some days with Sir Peter Soame, to whom he is a neighbour. He appeared to me to be a very sober, modest man. Want of preferment, and at last getting a trifling one, too little to live upon, (especially for a married man) he ran in debt, and has been severely treated by his creditors, who would, if they could, have confined him, and taken from him the honest means by which he proposed to extricate himself,

self, and to do justice to them. Fortune, however, and good friends have hitherto prevented their designs, and have favoured him with some preferment at Sheerness (as you will read in his letter); but yet he fears his person is not safe without some sort of protection. Perhaps Lord Dudley may be able to give him a chaplainship; which would greatly oblige me. Speak of it, pray, to his Lordship, and let me know his answer. I have declined writing to Mademoiselle de Montandre for an Ambassador's protection, for particular reasons regarding only her and myself; and I am the more solicitous to endeavour to serve him another way, which makes me, I fear, too troublesome to Lord Dudley.

I have had a second letter from Mr. Hylton, but have not answered it, because you say you expect him in the country; where I hope to see him with you at my house.

My tedious cold, which torments me in all shapes, stupifies my brain, and makes me incapable of writing more than to give Mr. Outing's compliments, and to assure you of the friendship of

Your obliged servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I forgot, last time I wrote, to make you Sir Peter Soame's compliments,

LETTER

L E T T E R CVII.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, March 3d, 1754.

ONE would think there was a *real* or a *paper* war between the Leafowes and Barrells, or at least a negociation of peace not concluded, as so many couriers pass; but I hope there is no *real* war. As to the *paper* war, I am not ashamed of it, however ill I may support my opinion by my weak arguments.—Did I not say you misconstrued the Duchefs's meaning, when she desired stars and dashes might supply *names*? and did not that prove she was desirous your Poem to her should be printed? for (as I said to you before) there would be no occasion for asterisks if your Poem was not to be printed. You see that she esteems it, and speaks gratitude as well as applause to you *the author of it*; and she is too sincere to speak what she does not mean; and I should be too impertinent in interfering, if I had not been the person who (by your desire) presented it to Her Grace.—The copy of the request I made her in favour of Mrs. Rock's Daughter, I inclose. The answer I could have wished more

favourable; but one can do no more than endeavour to oblige one's friends:—that I have often done in vain; and have served myself worse upon many occasions. I have an *unlucky band*, as the Gamesters say; but I can brag of a sincere heart, with which I am, Dear Sir,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Mr. Outing presents his compliments.—I shall be glad to see the *Analysis of Beauty*, however described; and am sorry I have not *now* an S in my name to claim any share in it.

P. S. Be pleased to return me the Duchefs's letter.—Pray present my respects to Lord Dudley, and service to Mrs. Rock.

Mrs. Holyoak, &c. are obliged by your remembrance; but had rather see *you* than your written compliments.

LETTER

LETTER CVIII.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, March 16th, 1754.

N OBODY is so unfit as I to answer your agreeable letters; for were I ever so capable of it, my fingers would not obey: the frost having made them almost as useless as when I went to Bath, and more painful; and my head has been stupified eight weeks with a cold that is not only obstinate, but has taken as many different shapes as Proteus, to torment me in various ways.—I am sorry for my friend Tom, who has, I suppose, suffered as well as I, by the inclemency of the weather.

I have no new books, alas! to amuse myself or you; so can only return yours of Hogarth's with thanks. It surprized me agreeably; for I had conceived the performance to be a set of prints only, whereas I found a book which I did not imagine Hogarth capable of writing; for in his pencil I always confided, but never imagined his pen would have afforded me so much pleasure. As to his not fixing *the precise degree of obliquity*, which constitutes beauty, I forgive him, because I think the task too hard

to be performed literally; but yet he conveys an idea between his pencil and his pen, which makes one conceive his meaning pretty well.

When I write to the Duchess of Somerset, I will do it in the manner you desire, as to your Poem; and will also name Mrs. Rock's Daughter again; but fear the Duchess (like myself) sees so few of the inhabitants of this terrestrial globe, that she will not readily find a proper person to recommend her to as a Lady's woman, though I make no doubt but the young woman deserves it. I should think Lady Elizabeth might with much propriety desire her Mamma to recommend her to some Lady; nor do I think Lady Northumberland would take it at all amiss that Miss Rock asked the child that favour.—The inclosed will be teasing to you, as it is to me; for it vexes me not to be able to serve the distressed, who address themselves to me. You would however be kind to me, and charitable to the poor man, if you could contrive a way how Lord Dudley might serve him; and his Lordship would add to the favours he has always shewn to me upon all occasions.

I will not positively say one word in behalf of *indolence*, since it keeps you by your fire-side,

sive, though by promise you ought to be by mine.

Had I not been extremely out of order, I would have seen Mr. Cotterell; but hope at least that my servants have been civil to him. When he has finished your Eolian harp, I believe I shall desire you to bespeak one of him for me. Sure I am, *that* instrument will fare well at Barrells, since the Winds are its food.

Mr. Holyoak's family would, I am certain, send compliments to you; but they are shivering at Oldbarrow, as I am here.—Mr. Bradley is freezing near Stowe in the Wold, with a sick uncle; and his wife is tormenting herself with fears for her four eldest children, who are to be inoculated on Monday next.—Such anxieties we mortals are doomed to: yet who would be void of feeling?

Mrs. Davies sends you some more Poems, transcribed by her in haste out of the Green Book with a bad pen, and in a great hurry; so desires you will excuse her defects; and promises to send the remainder of the book soon. If she does, I desire she will write better, or make her excuses herself: but she pleads that you owe her a letter.

Lord Ar— says Miss Banks's fortune is 10,000*l.* which wants one cypher of the account

count you had of it; but her merit and charms will I dare say fill up that chasm.

Mrs. Bartlet is here, and presents her compliments. We all three wish you happiness and success in all your undertakings.

L E T T E R CIX.

Barrells, April 27th, 1754.

DEAR SIR,

Saturday.

WHEN your servant brought me your letter, I was ill in bed with a fever fit, which made it impossible for me to sit up, or to put my hands out of bed to write. It went off next day; but then I received the news of the death of an own Aunt (and of her Husband, who survived her but six days) at Geneva. Lord Luxborough sent me word of it, because my surviving relations there did not well know where to direct to me: but I was equally obliged to write to them upon the occasion, and deferred writing to you merely upon that account; and at the same time resolved doing it by my servant Joseph, as tomorrow; but this day Mrs. Holyoak of Henley

ley has sent to me to desire my chaise may fetch her to stay at Barrells some days; so that my epistle cannot reach the Leasowes before Monday. This will, I hope, be a sufficient excuse for not answering yours sooner; which I ought to have done, upon account of the Gentlewoman you recommend to me as an housekeeper. Her character I would take from you, Sir, as soon as from any friend or acquaintance living; but must confess I have had such ill success with servants in that post, that I intend to do without one; and have given the same answer to a friend of mine, who recommended one of Birmingham also.

I never was more surprized nor concerned than at the death of Miss Dolman. I ever esteemed her, and wished her welfare. I condole with her Brother, as I do with you sincerely.

I rejoice that Fortune visits the Grange, and hope she will call at the Leasowes next. Poor Mr. Belchier is frowned upon by her; and though he is much obliged to Lord Dudley and you and myself, for our endeavours to serve him, he thinks Lord Dudley's lawyer a little too scrupulous in his objections: for my part, I am no judge of that; but he says a few months would have been sufficient to extricate

extricate him; and that the same favour is granted to other clergymen: and Sir Peter Soame writes him word he must not let it be known where he is; for people are ready enough to enquire and to threaten to get writs out against him, which his friend Sir Peter Soame has hitherto prevented. In the mean time, the poor man is tormented with the ague, which Kent has given him, added to the vexation of his mind. If he dares get out, he will come with Sir Peter here, and thank me for my endeavours to serve him.—You will I hope find out that he thinks there are many precedents for Gentlemen in orders receiving the favour he asks.—Sorry I am to be troublesome to my friends; but more so, that I see the distress of others, without being capable of removing it, when they implore my assistance.

Talk to me no more, I desire, of your *winterly state of health*; for Boreas has at length given place to the Zephyrs, who will shortly blow out the buds in my Shrubbery; which will take it amiss if you should not be here to receive its vernal offerings.

Mr. Hylton is very obliging in remembering me. I beg you will make him my compliments, and assure him I would have answered

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his last, but imagined he would have quitted London for the Leafowes long before now. His cabinets and boxes I esteem as his harbingers; and as for his wine, I hope at least that you drank his health in it.

I am not sorry you have done nothing new of late at the Leafowes: it wants nothing to make its beauties more admired; and your *finances* will be the better for your indolence in that point; as would mine, if I had been always as indolent as I am at present.

Sir William Meredith is chose Member of Parliament for Wigan. One of his Sisters is under inoculation. Sir Peter Soame waits the event of his friend Mr. Gardner's Election for Hertfordshire, to come to Barrells.

I have not left myself room to say a truth, which is that I am

Your faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

One in the Morning.

You write me four sides of paper—True: but pray count the lines and syllables of my letter, and then let us reckon who is debtor: but I desire the *contents* may be left out of the account. Should the difference of our letters be mentioned

tioned that way, I should be cast in a moment, and my resource then would be no better than a Lord Lainsborough, who having maintained, some years ago at St. James's Coffee-house, that England was bigger than France, had no way to prove it, but to cut each kingdom out of two maps, of different scales, and to weigh them. If this be my case, I must make my packet as thick as I can: so you will excuse the awkwardness of it.

My respects to Lord Dudley when you write; and compliments to Mr. Hylton.

L E T T E R CX.

Barrells, Sunday, May 12th, 1754.

I CAN with great truth assure you, dear Sir, that I am in the highest degree sensible of your kindness in exerting yourself in favour of a person recommended by me; whose distresses are his chief recommendations to me: and I am highly obliged to my Lord Dudley for his readiness to consider of a proper method of complying with the request I took the liberty

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to

to make in behalf of the distressed person, to whom I shall without fail send his Lordship's kind protection by to-morrow's post; desiring him to acquaint me whether he finds by people belonging to those offices where he is to be entered, whether any forms are wanting in the instrument his Lordship has sent? not doubting but if that should be the case, my Lord will extend his goodness by supplying in a fresh form what may prove wanting in this.

The inclosed I received from the same Mr. (John) Belchier whom we are endeavouring to serve; with a sermon he preached upon the Election of Mr. Charles Frederick, &c. for Queenborough.

My respects and best thanks attend Lord Dudley; and I desire my compliments to Miss Lea, and all your good neighbours.

My service, pray, to Mrs. Rock, from

Yours sincerely,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I find with pleasure, that Mr. Hylton is with you; and hope he will not forsake you when you come to Barrells. Mr. Outing, my faithful Bostangy, assures me the Shrubbery will be ready to receive you in its spring-clothing

clothing before next week is out: by which time (if not already) I hope you will have forgot you ever had any disorder in your health, which will be rather established than impaired by riding a short day's journey.

I have been out in my post-chaise half a dozen times lately, and walked my usual round of Gardens and Coppice, &c. on Friday last; and have shredded my avenue, I hope, to some advantage to the eye, as it is undoubtedly to the grounds 'it shaded. I would have sent you some cucumbers; of which I have cut several; but it seems all that were fit to send are devoured already; and a nosegay of the finest double hyacinths I ever saw, and which I meant to present to you, are too mature to bear the shaking of the horse without shedding. They would have gone safe last week; but I am now reduced to the case of Boniface in the *Beaux Stratagem*, who had had a fine loin of veal on the Wednesday before it was wanted.

Poor Miss Carrington's death grieves this neighbourhood. Would she and Miss Dolman had been inoculated, as it has succeeded miraculously hereabouts!—Mr. Outing desires his compliments to you and Mr. Hylton; to whom I desire mine very sincerely, though I did not write them, as I should have done, in

Cc 3

return

return of his last letter ; but really then thought him on the road to the Leaſowes.—My neighbours are much your friends, or ſhould not be mine ; I being ſo with unalterable friendſhip and gratitude.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I obſerve you have a new Seal, with a pretty device.

L E T T E R CXI.

Barrells, Auguſt the laſt, or September the firſt, 1754.

DEAR SIR,

YOUR letter of the 17th of July is before me ; but the date makes me bluſh ; ſo I ſet it aſide, not to be reproached : my conſcience, however, clears me, and I hope you will do the ſame, when you are apprized that I have been too ill to write a line, much leſs to undertake a journey of pleaſure ; for ſadneſs would have accompanied me, and I ſhould have ſcattered it about your pleaſing dwelling. You are then obliged to me for my abſence more, I fear, than you will be for my preſence ;
which

which (unless you forbid it) I propose to torment you with next week. Say if I *shall*, without regard to compliment. I pay nobody, not even Lady Plymouth, the common compliment of a visit, though I respect her greatly; but really the conjunction of bad roads, bad health, and bad spirits, make me like an owl in the desert.

What attractions must the Leasowes have, which draws the lame, the splenetic, the indolent, from every point of the compass to that one, in order to admire the mixed beauties of nature and art, and to give their tribute of applause to the master of the place, who invents and completes more for the pleasure of his friends or his visitants of taste, than for his own!

As I propose seeing you so soon, I wave any answer to the articles of your letter which do not relate to the present purpose, though I could echo your sounds, and lament the poor Duchefs of Somerset for ever. As to Sir Peter Soame, he has been here a week, and I shewed him the paragraph in yours about *July*. He fixed upon a day to go with me; but behold, it rained to a degree, that no comparison can reach. More or less it continued during his stay. Adieu.

Cc 4

Mrs.

Mrs. Davies says she *must* send her compliments to you, as she intends seeing you so soon; she being to go in the chaise with me. I will ask Parson Holyoak; but fear church-duty will interfere, as it will be late in the week.—I would have you expect me on Friday evening,—not before: your supper will be our regale. But above all, let Joseph, my coachman, be instructed to return with your answer by the new and good turnpike you tell me is made by your house; for fears and terrors might be too strong for my weak limbs and nerves. Such is the decrepit company you ask for, and such you shall have, if the journey can be performed by

Your faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Mrs. Davies's best compliments.

Sunday Night.

Finding an opportunity of sending this to Birmingham to-morrow morning by Mr. Jackson, I do not send Joseph, as I intended; having employment for him concerning fishing, &c. so hope, dear Sir, you will excuse my not sparing him to go to the Leasowes this time; and that you will remember to come to Barrells soon. Adieu,

H. L.

LETTER CXII.

DEAR SIR, Barrells, September 29th, 1754.

YOUR thanking me for my visit at the Leafowes, before I had sent my thanks to you for your very kind and agreeable reception of me there, is very obliging; but being so, it comes the severest reproach you could have made me; by making me sensible of the rudeness I have been guilty of, in not sending to you since I left you. The truth is, that I had nobody to send, having parted with the idle boy I had with me at your house; and every day Joseph has been employed in driving me out: so great a gadder has the fine weather made me, and so much better health and spirits has my journey to the Leafowes given me. Ten physicians, with an equal number of surgeons and apothecaries, could not have effected such an *amendment*; I believe I might say *cure*; for I have never been sick once. I imagine your air is good; and I see that your improvements in your Walks and Cascades make your place a Paradise in miniature: yet, though I am its professed admirer, it must permit me to say that

that the conversation of the master and contriver of the *beauties* I saw there, was to me preferable far to them; so that I regretted less than I should otherwise have done the weakness of my limbs, which prevented my *trampouzing* so much as I used.

I have been to see every neighbour I have, but the one I most wish to see, Lady Plymouth.—A cross tenant of Mr. Sheldon's has cut off all connection between Hewell and Barrells; yet I persevere in trying for a road, as eagerly as those who bore for a mine. If my endeavours are not fruitless, I propose going on Wednesday. Would I could meet you there! Since I am wishing, I wish also that your new artist was to make a Busto of you for my Library, to accompany Pope and Shakespear.—I send you a frame for the Fruit-piece you mention. It is the least size I have, but must be cut less. I took it from Queen Caroline (for robbing crowned heads is no more than a fair reprisal). My other frames of that size were not gilt, but lacquered, which I thought not good enough, though Mr. Thomas would have taken one, as it was out of use; but I judged it to be less genteel than that which I send, and I remembered this suited to the frame over your parlour-chimney, which

might be an advantage if they should ever happen to hang in the same room.

I am obliged to the ingenious Mr. Baskerville for wishing my time had allowed me to call there.—I do not know any Mr. Bingley, nor a Mr. Dingley, except a jeweller at London, who has some place at Court.

Mrs. Davies receives your compliment with the utmost sensibility and gratitude. If in return of your politeness to her, you should ask her a favour, *she can but deny you, you know*: but I think *she cannot*. Pray then let it be that she should not leave me to myself, which is the worst company, and to my thoughts, which are as little pleasing as the sound of the west wind that haunts my little habitation, and which may be soon expected to take up its winter residence here. Oh woeful thought! Oh woeful sound! None but the friendly Robin Red-breast soothes my ear after those rough sounds: but *in the melancholy month of November, in which the English hang themselves*, I expect more pleasure than from the Robin; since you and Mr. Hylton will join in his harmony, and favour me with your company: then (and not now) genius, taste, &c. will reside in my Hermitage.—Adieu then for the present,

396 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

present; and let November draw near, as it will bring you nearer to

Your faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

I will deliver your kind and polite compliments to Mr. Holyoak and his Wife, who enquired much after you. Mine, pray, to Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Davies. We gave her more trouble than we can give her thanks.—Mrs. Maynard's respects to you.

L E T T E R CXIII.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, November 18th, 1754.

IT is an age since I heard from you, and two ages since I had the pleasure of your company.—Sir William Meredith has been here, and wished you had come then. The shortness of the days, the downfall of the leaves, the badness of the roads, and every other mark of decay in the progress of the year, should drive you from home; as the charms of your place

place will be lost for a time, even to yourself; and as coal is to supply the place of sun, you may as well warm yourself at my fire.

I reluctantly send the inclosed, which I received last night by the bearer. I am persecuted by his Master, whose letter I send you; before which I had one to say he was at his duty on board the Norwich; but was arrested at Portsmouth, and was fearful lest the man of war should sail without him; and desired I would write to Lord, or Mr. Barington, Admiral Smith, &c. I put that off by letter; but now is come this messenger: and as he sends a letter directed to Lord Dudley, do not think myself entitled to keep it. I therefore forward it, though it is giving you trouble; but you will forgive what you know proceeds from mere compassion to any person in distress.—Mr. Outing is your servant, as I am Lord Dudley's, and ever

Yours most sincerely,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R

L E T T E R CXIV.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, December 4th, 1754.

THOUGH the sterility of subjects to write upon from this place, might be a sufficient excuse for my not troubling you with a letter at this time; yet my not seeing you here according to promise, in the month of November, urges me to remind you that that month is passed; and to ask you when I may expect you? as also, what prevents my having the pleasure of hearing from you as usual? a pleasure I can ill spare in my situation, which affords so little joy; and which I should prefer to most others, even in a land abounding in gaiety. Besides, Sir, be it known to you, (if it is not already) that I wrote to you above a fortnight ago, by a messenger who was dispatched to me from Portsmouth, by the little unfortunate and troublesome Parson you was so kind to interest yourself for, with Lord Dudley, at my request; since which, I have never seen or heard of the said messenger; neither has Mr. Outing, who sent a letter by him to Mrs. Rock. Pray unravel this mystery

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to me if you can; but let it be in person rather than by letter.

I think I informed you that Sir William Meredith had been here in his way to Parliament, and asked after you; adding, that he had a little present for you of Kennel-Coal, and wishing to have met you here. He is so kind as to write me what passes in the House of Commons in general; and in particular, mentions a speech of old Horace Walpole's, as humourous as good-natured, in answer to one of young Beckford's, who spoke much of the flourishing state of all our colonies, except that which he belonged to. Horace answered, "*That* was in the most flourishing condition of all; for there was a new growth there, and a fresh importation from thence: an importation of political geniuses, which bid fair to fill both the City and the Parliament."

Mr. John Reynalds and his Wife are gone to Bath with Sir Robert Cocks.—Bradley of Edston is dead rich, from having been poor; and was growing richer still; but it is the common rude practice of death to interrupt fortune in her career.—I have been obliged to take a distress upon a tenant, and to employ a lawyer. Should you have known me in that occupation?

400 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

occupation?—Is Lord Dudley at the Grange, or at the House of Peers? and is Mr. Hylton with you? My compliments attend them and your other neighbours; to whom, as well as to you, Mr. Outing joins his: and I am, (in spite of your laziness in regard to me)

Dear Sir,

Your faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R CXV.

DEAR SIR,

December 8th, 1754.

IT is late; your servant is but just come; my fingers are not so alert as in warm weather; my imagination is as contracted as they are: judge then how unfit I am to give an answer to your letter; and far less so to give my judgment of the beautiful pieces of poetry it inclosed. I shall therefore take the liberty to keep them till you send again, which you say will be before the close of this week; and in the mean time will read them with pleasure and impartiality; and will write you my opinion,

opinion, since you do me the unmerited honour of desiring it; but am sensible of my unworthiness to be employed as a Critic. I have had only time to read the Ode to Memory; which I had not seen, and which pleases me much. As to the two trifling Songs, which dropt from my pen some time past, and which you propose to let Doddsley have, I give you free liberty so to do, if you really think them deserving of a place in his Miscellanies; being assured that, if you thought otherwise, you would not expose your Friend, nor disgrace Doddsley's Collection.

Your promise of letting me see you soon at Barrells, I build upon; as that foundation will support me in a season when high winds, bad roads, and solitude, depress me so, as to make me sometimes ready to sink under their weight.—As to your past misdemeanours, (such as long silence in particular) I withdraw my charge, and will implicitly believe you could not help it; for if I was inclinable to do otherwise, what should I gain by tormenting myself with the apprehension of having lost a friend, who may be as sincere as he professes himself, and as I am persuaded you are? and if he should not be so, is not an object worthy regretting the loss of: so, in short, write

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when you can, without restraint to yourself, and I will do the same; but my indulgence does not extend to allowing you to be absent from hence so very long, and to stay here so very short a time when you do come.

I will transmit to Sir William Meredith the kind things you say of him; and think it possible, and even probable, you may see him here, when the Parliament breaks up for the holidays.

Gladly I tell you, that you mistake the Mr. Bradley that is living and well, at Wooton, for the Mr. Bradley who died at Edstou.

I hope Lord Dudley's new equipage will convey him safe to the Grange; though I suppose he must quit that again after Christmas for the Parliament.

I cannot excuse my friend Mr. Hylton for letting his panics deprive his friends of his pleasing company. Tell him I can by no means excuse it.—I say nothing of Mr. Outing; he writes for himself, and of his own accord; but adds by my desire a paragraph about the unlucky affair I embarked in when I troubled you and Lord Dudley about the Parson, who proves himself to have been so undeserving of the regard we have shewn him.

Mr. Outing interrupts me to drink your
health

health—Here it is done, with a wish of long life and happiness; and I sign my name to it, as it is the dictate of my heart.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S. Observe that I write with a crow-quill, which behaves tolerably at first; intolerably at last; and will make you think me incapable of the use of my fingers. I promise you, however, never to write with it again.

L E T T E R CXVI.

Barrells, Thursday, December 12th, 1754.

DEAR SIR,

AS soon as my friend Tom had left Barrells on Monday last, my intention was to have sat down to the arduous task you had set me; but I was seized with a disorder which confined me to my bed on Tuesday, and to my chamber yesterday; and though it was a disorder which may prove rather conducive than prejudicial to my health, it totally incapacitated me from performing what I pro-

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mis'd you, and even from consulting with Mr. Outing, who was in a distant apartment. Finding myself better to-day, I only waited the absence of company, who dined with me, to begin; and had gone through but two or three stanzas, when Tom came with your last packet. The poor creature was almost drowned last time; and what chance he will stand to-morrow is uncertain; but the present moment is shockingly stormy, and must retard every project, though Mr. Doddsley's requesting dispatch is reasonable; so that I send you the result of our evening proceedings, and write this whilst Mr. Outing writes our desired criticisms.

When you shewed my little Pieces to Mr. Doddsley, you did me more honour than I should have done myself; because I should have feared to have disgraced his Miscellany. I forgot in my last to mention what Mr. Doddsley I find does mention to you, viz. in the Title of the two trifles of mine, to say, *Wrote by a Lady*—which is, I think, unexceptionable.

You was altogether right in assuring Mr. Crawley I would acquiesce in his conduct for Lord Dudley towards Mr. Belchier, whose impositions upon me were reasons sufficient to deprive him of my patronage, and leave
me

me much ashamed of having implored Lord Dudley's protection for such an unworthy person, as time and circumstances shew him now to be.

I wait with impatience the day of your arrival with Mr. Hylton at Barrells; and am ever

Your most faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

What is become of your Autumn? I hope Dodsley has it, as the poor Duchefs desired.

Mr. Outing is your humble servant; and I am ever, dear Sir, as I profess myself,

Your sincere friend

and faithful servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

P. S. If Tom cannot come, I think you might venture to inclose Mr. Belchier's letter in one to me, to Mr. Williams at Birmingham.

L E T T E R CXVII.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, December 18th, 1754.

THIS goes upon a different errand than my last. It is to tell you, that hearing Mr. and Mrs. Holyoake speak of a mare of Miss Molly's, which she intended to part with, because she had a little Welch one besides, which would serve her, I thought of Mr. Hylton immediately; especially upon finding by all accounts that she is perfectly sound, gentle, and free from vices, and comes but four years old; has been rode by Mr. Holyoake's younger sons a good while, and is tall enough and strong enough for Mr. Hylton's weight, and does not want fashion; came of some very good horse at Worcester, and a mare that had been given Miss Molly. Now in case Mr. Hylton is not already provided, why should he not come in the Birmingham coach to Henley? when here, he may see this mare, and may hear of others; and if he should not purchase, the coach will be a certain vehicle at his return. This proposal puts a stop to your future delays,
upon

upon his account, and shows my *empressement* to see you both.

I have no time to write more; for Mrs. *Maydew* must have my letter to-night, and will carry it safe to-morrow early to the post.

Mr. Outing is at Oldbarrow: I am alone and stupid; so adieu.—Believe me unalterably

Yours, &c.

H. LUXBOROUGH.

The coach sets out from Henley, I think, Mondays and Thursdays, and is at Henley by breakfast (eight or nine). Mr. Hylton might lie over night at Birmingham.

This letter is shorter than ordinary, and perhaps you will complain; I will therefore subjoin a trifling *impromptu* I once wrote in a hurry, and which I am doubtful if I ever shewed you; but think I never shewed any body. It will serve to read, and then kindle your candle, or *soften your flute*, if you use paper, as usual, on that occasion.

Mr. Outing is much your servant, though absent: I am Mr. Hylton's.

L E T T E R CXVIII.

DEAR SIR,

Barrells, January 7th, 1755.

THIS goes not only to make you the compliments of the season, (which I do very sincerely, and not merely because it is customary) but it also goes to ask how you do, and what can occasion your silence? It is an age since I wrote to you about a horse Miss Molly Holyoake has to sell, which I thought might suit Mr. Hylton; and proposed, that if he was not already provided with one, he might come to Barrells in the Birmingham coach when you should come here: and in that letter I inclosed a few bad Lines of my own, wrote some years ago: since all which, I received the inclosed from our troublesome little Parson, who is, thank God, sailing towards America. I send it, because Lord Dudley's protection is in it; which I desire you will take out and deliver to his Lordship from me, with many thanks and many excuses for having troubled him about this affair.—I inclose, besides the other, a letter I received from Sir William Meredith, as you are mentioned in it.—Mr. Outing is gone to sup at Henley, and does not know of my writing, or you would have compliments from him.

I have

I have not seen the new Tragedy *Barbarossa* : perhaps you can lend it me.—Mr. Outing has talked several times of making a visit at the Grange ; but does not know whether Lord Dudley is there, or at the Parliament.

Pray thaw your ink and your fingers, and write glibly away till you come. Remember that Twelfth-Day is over, and do not forget your promise :—Remember likewise that I am very truly and unalterably

Your faithful humble servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

Compliments to Mr. Hylton.

LETTER CXIX.

DEAR SIR, Barrells, Valentine's Day, 1755.

YOUR silence excites me to break mine ; for upon the present footing one of us might be murdered (like the Dey of Algiers), and the other die of an apoplexy, and the longest liver of the two know nothing of the fate of the other. Did you not say in your last, that you would come soon to Barrells ? Upon those hopes we have lived : but hopes are meagre food : in punishment for which,
if

410 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

if I could command, you should be obliged to do penance here this Lent. It is true I did not answer your last; but Mr. Outing wrote you the reason, which ought to have been excuse sufficient; for I was really ill, and incapable of guiding a pen. I am much better: but as the Warwickshire roads do not invite one abroad at this season, one doubly wishes for the company of one's friends round our deserted hearths.

Mr. Outing sends compliments: mine, pray, to Mr. Hylton, and believe me

Yours, &c.

H. L.

L E T T E R CXX.

Barrells, Sunday, April 27th, 1755.

DEAR SIR,

I CANNOT well condescend to thank you for your letter of the 17th, considering that it was scarcely the shadow of what I long expected, which was your company and Mr. Hylton's in my Shrubbery, my Hermitage, my Library, and, in the evenings, at my fire-side. No less than three weeks are past since the last promise came, the others having been buried

buried in oblivion : but of this last I held myself so sure, that, being obliged to go on Wednesday last to Warwick, I left my butler at home with orders to fetch Mrs. Holyoake to entertain you till my return ; but behold ! you do not so much as make mention of your having had thoughts, much less of having given promises to visit this place and me ! The elms are green in vain : in vain the cucumbers are large, and as vainly the Shrubbery shoots out, and the Coppice has a carpet of primroses, cowslips, &c. Let them reproach you ; and let your Governess, Mrs. Holyoake, correct you : and may she boast

“ ——— Unruly Brats with Birch to tame.”

The prettiest thing I ever saw of the kind, is the shell-room at Guy's-Cliff : Mr. Greethead and Lady Mary have executed it all with their own hands : *bed-bangings, chimney-boards, pictures* over the doors, &c. If you was not lazy, you would see it. I came from it through Warwick, Snitterfield, Bushes, Bearly, and Wooton ; but on horseback you would not have had that trouble.

Mr. Nugent visits me again. Mr. Soame is under inoculation, very full, and in good spirits.—I go to-morrow to Kinwarton to dine with a clergyman, who seems to have some taste.

412 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

taste.—Mr. Outing is immerſed in cares about letting his houſe, and I do not know what; but goes to a Friend's in Eſſex this week from London.—If we are to have no war, I have done with politics.—I wiſh Mr. Arne may acquieſce in your requeſt.—I ſhould greatly like the four Roman Ruins you mention, provided I could get them coloured.

I am ſorry the weather permits the beauties of the Leaſowes to be exhibited; for then no hopes remain for your humble friends in Warwickſhire, who have nothing to exhibit but hearts and friendſhips ſincere; ſuch are poſſeſſed by

H. LUXBOROUGH.

L E T T E R CXXI.

Barrells, Wednesday, May 28th, 1755.

DEAR SIR,

I WAS moſt agreeably ſurprized yeſterday, and at the ſame time as diſagreeably diſappointed. You will eaſily gueſs that I mean Mr. and Mrs. Greaves's viſit; without you, whom I had ſo long expected. They left Barrells this morning, and gave me the ſatiſfaction to hear they left you well yeſterday. May you continue ſo, is my wiſh! do not therefore tor-

ment yourself more than is necessary about the embroilments of worldly affairs ; but avoid if possible, the devouring monster called *Law* ; it often swallows Justice itself. I remember once to have heard Lord Chancellor Cowper say, " If every body knew as much of the law " as I do, they would, were their cause ever " so good, give up half, rather than embark " in our courts." This I take to be a good caution. Those lawyers, who are not arrived to the summit of their wishes, and who taste the sweet of large fees, will not speak so sincerely. I hope very very soon to hear you and Mr. Dolman disengage yourselves from them, though both may be obliged to yield a little.

I return Mr. Doddsley's Letters ; than which, none can be more polite. Pray keep me in his good favour.

I should like to see Hagley chancel-window : sure it must be bigger than the whole chancel I saw !

My best compliments wait upon Lord Dudley and Miss Lea, and thanks for his Lordship's sending here. I am also Mr. Hylton's most humble servant ; -as Mrs. Davies is yours, and I am ever

Your faithful and affectionate servant,

H. LUXBOROUGH.

414 LADY LUXBOROUGH'S

L E T T E R CXXII.

Barrells, Wednesday Night, June 18th; 1755.

LADY Luxborough sends her compliments to Mr. Shenstone, and if it is agreeable to him in all respects, she would go on Saturday morning to the Leasowes, to lie one night only.—Sir Peter Soame and his Son are at Barrells, and are very desirous of waiting on Mr. Shenstone. Mr. Outing and Mrs. Davies are also at Barrells, and would accompany her, if not troublesome. Mr. Outing is persuaded he has interest enough to get a bed at Lord Dudley's for himself and Mr. Soame, to avoid crowding Mr. Shenstone too much. Lady Luxborough proposes carrying no woman-servant with her; and hopes that Mr. Shenstone will let her know if this project be in any fort inconvenient to him, and that without compliment.

L E T T E R *from* Mr. HOLYOAKE to
WILLIAM SHENSTONE, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

Oldburrow, March 29, 1756.

IHAVE the favour of yours by your servant; and as you say you have had intelligence, the moment you wrote, of the melancholy news from

Barrells, give me leave to assure you I expected Mrs. Davies or Mr. Outing would have acquainted you with it as soon as the poor Lady's breath was gone, as they did the same to Sir Peter Soame, Sir William Meredith, and some others of my Lady's relations. I depended upon this, as my Wife mentioned it to them before me; which if I had imagined they had neglected, I would certainly have wrote to you myself.—We have been, and indeed still are, in hurry and confusion, though at the same time it gives me great satisfaction to say truly, that nothing hath been wanting, either to prolong her life, or to prepare her for the other world, as far as opportunities and intervals would give leave. The beginning of her illness was occasioned by a cold and hoarseness, about a month since, in setting out for Wootton about five o'clock on Friday: the Sunday following she sent for my Wife and Daughter to drink tea, and a message to me, that she expected I would call as I returned from Ullenhall Chapel; which accordingly I did, and observed the above-mentioned symptoms upon her, and told her, that as I had the care of Ullenhall, she would give me leave to say to her, as I thought it incumbent to do, that as she had not attended Church nor the Sacrament very lately, I would advise her to receive the Sacrament. She answered,

*Lord Luptonough married the
 same following — a Lady Lavin or Lavinia
 a foreigner who did not aid to his happiness
 they did not live long together and had no family*

answered, I was very good, and that she would send to me very soon; and accordingly received it with great devotion. The night before she died I read the Recommendatory Prayer to her; and I hope she is perfectly happy, though she had so great troubles and afflictions in this life.—My Wife would gladly have wrote to you; but the truth of it is, she returned from Barrells but yesterday, and is very ill; and for this reason, she hopes you will not take it unkind.—Mrs. Davies and Outing have been with Lady Luxborough all her illness, which I am very glad of.—Lord Luxborough is expected at Barrells to-morrow, to give orders about the funeral.—I have nothing more material to add, but my Wife and Daughter's best compliments, and to ask your pardon for this incoherent letter from, Dear Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

W. HOLYOAKE.



F I N I S.

Shinstone died at the Leasowes of a putrid fever, on Feb^{ll}. 1763, and was buried by the side of his brother in the Church Yard of Halsowen. . . . Aet 49.

From this letter and promise
^{Kingston} having called Lady Luxborough a female
Bolingbroke, I am rather inclined to
think that her Ladyship had been
at least at some period of her life
a sceptick, in religion; perhaps young
in life she might have imbibed
some loose notions respecting devotion
which she lived long enough to
reject as impious and unprofitable.

It is much to be wished that
every clergyman would like Mr
Holyoake as strictly perform his
duty.
Elginston.

Lady Luxborough was interred with
much funeral solemnity at Wootton
Wawen from which church her
remains were sometimes afterwards
removed to the Mausoleum erected
near Barrnells by his Lordship.

Rob^t Knight Esq of Catterlough Vis Barrnells
& Lord Luxborough of Shannon, Member
for Milborne Port Dorsetshire and Recorder
of Great Grimsby Lincolnshire Died
March 30. 1772.

A pedestal which supports a plain neat urn
within the common narrow table contains the following
elegant tribute to Shunstone

William Shunstone Esq

Obit 11 Feb 1763.

Oct. 48.

Who'er thou art with reverence tread,
These sacred mansions of the dead!

Not that the monumental bust
Or sumptuous tomb, here guards the dust
Of rich or great; let wealth, rank, birth,
Sleep undisturb'd in the earth:

This simple urn records a name
Which shines with more exalted fame.

Reader! if genius taste refin'd
A native elegance of mind
Of virtue, science, manly sense
Of wit, that never gave offence,
The cleared head, the tenderest heart,
In thy esteem we claim'd a part;
Ah! smite thy breast, and drop a tear,
For know thy Shunstone's dust lies here.

R. G. and J. H. Eggleston

A. O. P.



On a flat stone in the Church Yard

To the memory
of Mr Joseph Shunstone who
died November 30th 1751.
aged 89.

Also

To the memory of
William Shunstone Esq
late of the Leasowes

who died February 11th 1763
aged 48.

O Victor!

Salus animas in caelis requiescere
confides
salus in terris desinit
precare —

Lord Cathcart after the death of his
second wife or rather after parting with her
formed a connection with a woman
who lived in Golden Square by whom he had
three children. The eldest son, Lord Cathcart
who married Miss Dorman.
The second son, Lord Cathcart, inherited his Lordship's fortune.
The third son, Lord Cathcart, and a daughter who
first married Bond Hopkins Esq. and
then Charles Sturt Esq. brother to
the Banker.

